VISION IAS

TEST NO-12

Ancient Indian History

Art and Culture and Medieval India:

Ancient History

- Prehistoric period
- Harappan / Indus Valley Civilization
- Vedic Age
- Mahajanapadas
- Religious Reforms
- Mauryan Age & Post Mauryan Age
- Sangam Age
- Guptas Age & Post Guptas Age

Art & Culture

- Architecture and Sculptures
- Religion and Philosophy

Medieval India

- Early Medieval Period
- North India
- South India
- Sultanate Period
- The Delhi Sultanate

Ancient History

- Prehistoric period
- Harappan / Indus Valley Civilization
- Vedic Age
- Mahajanapadas
- Religious Reforms
- Mauryan Age & Post Mauryan Age
- Sangam Age
- Guptas Age & Post Guptas Age
- (Brief History, Salient Features, Social, Economics, Religious and Cultural conditions of all the above)

Art & Culture

- **Architecture**: Indus Valley Civilization, The Mauryan Architecture, The Sungas,
  + Current Affairs (August 2021)
  - Vijayanagar & other Kingdoms
  - Religious Movements
  - Bhakti Movement
  - Sufi Movement
  - Mughal Period
  - Maratha Confederacy

PT - 2022

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Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

C

GENERAL STUDIES (P) 2022 – Test – 3481

Time Allowed: Two Hours **Maximum Marks: 200**

INSTRUCTIONS

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2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES **A, B, C** OR **D** AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.

3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **Do NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.

4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English.** Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response with you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.

5. You have to mark all your responses ONLY on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answers sheet.

6. All items carry equal marks. Attempt all items. Your total marks will depend only on the number of **correct responses** marked by you in the answer sheet. For **every incorrect** response **1/3rd of the allotted marks** will be deducted.

7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.

8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator only the answer sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.

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1. Consider the following statements:

1. In the Delhi Sultanate, this was the most important office after Sultan.
2. The head of this office role was of a general supervisor over all departments and he was one of the four important departmental heads.
3. He was the chief advisor to the Sultan.

Which of the following offices has been referred to in the statements given above?

(a) Diwan-i-Wizarat
(b) Diwan-i-Arz
(c) Diwan-i-Insha
(d) Barid-i-Mumalik

2. Which of the following statements is ***not*** correct with respect to Amir Khusrau?

(a) He wrote the book 'Tughluq Namah' detailing about the reign of Firuz Tughlaq.
(b) He was a disciple of Sufi Saint 'Nizamuddin Auliya'.
(c) The qual, a hymn sung at the opening or closing of qawwali during the Chisti sama was composed by Him.
(d) He preached religious toleration and secular thinking.

3. Recently Ramappa Temple has been inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage list. In this context, consider the following statements with respect to Ramappa Temple:

1. The temple is located in the state of Telangana.
2. The temple was constructed in the 7th century during the reign of Kakatiyas.
3. The presiding deity in the temple is Lord Rama.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

4. Jainism taught five doctrines and only the fifth doctrine was added by Mahavira, the other four were taken over by him from previous teachers. Which of the following was the doctrine added by Mahavira?

(a) Do not acquire property
(b) Do not commit violence
(c) Observe continence (brahmacharya)
(d) Do not speak a lie

5. During the medieval period, many indigenous books were translated into Persian. In this context which of the following books were translated into Persian?

1. Rajatarangini
2. Mahabharata
3. Ragadarpan

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

6. Consider the following statements regarding a Sufi saint:

1. He was Baba Farid's most famous disciple.
2. He was responsible for making Delhi an important center of the Chishti silsilah.
3. He preferred to shun the company of rulers and nobles and kept aloof from the state.

Which one of the following Sufi saints have been described in the statements given above?

(a) Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya
(b) Sheikh Nasiruddin Mahmud
(c) Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki
(d) Sheikh Fariduddin of Ajodhan

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7. In the context of cultural history of India, the term '*nritya*' refers to

(a) pure dance sequence where body movements do not express any feelings.

(b) expressional movements to convey the meaning of a theme.

(c) dance sequence that highlights the dramatic element.

(d) none of the above

8. Consider the following statements about the Ajivika sect:

1. It was an unorthodox sect which emerged at the same time as the rise of Buddhism and Jainism.
2. They practiced complete nudity.
3. They believed in Niyati or destiny and discarded the Karma doctrine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 1 and 2 only

9. Which of the following emerged/were known in India during ancient times (before the 6th century AD)?

1. Metallurgy
2. Production of paper
3. Manufacturing of gunpowder
4. Making of dyes and pigment

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only

(b) 1 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. With reference to the social structure prevalent in the Sangam age, consider the following statements:

1. The practice of Sati was prohibited in the Sangam society.
2. Agricultural operations such as ploughing were mainly confined to the members of the lowest class.
3. The rich nobles were invested with the title of *enadi* to demarcate the society.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

11. In the context of Indo-Islamic Architecture, techniques of *tessellation* and *pietra dura* were associated with

(a) miniature painting

(b) decoration of surface and walls

(c) formal gardens

(d) fresco painting

12. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mesolithic Period:

1. The Mesolithic people lived in semi-permanent and temporary settlements.
2. Microlithic tools were used for hunting purposes.
3. The Mesolithic sites are absent in the coastal areas of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

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13. The well known painting 'Maru Ragini' of Ragamala series was painted by Sahibdin. This painting belongs to the

(a) Kangra School of Painting
(b) Guler School of Painting
(c) Mewar School of Painting
(d) Kishangarh School of Painting

14. Recently the term active galactic nuclei was seen in the news, which one of the following statements is correct with reference to it?

(a) These are concentration of red supergiant stars at the centres of galaxies.
(b) These are the dense constellations of galaxies present in the universe.
(c) These are the supermassive blackholes, which are several million solar masses in size, at the centres of galaxies.
(d) This is a process in which two or more galaxies are colliding with each other, to form a single and larger galaxy.

15. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the regulations of Alauddin Khalji?

1. He lowered and fixed the price of the commodities of daily use.
2. He increased the prices of horses in the market to make them an exclusive commodity.
3. He appointed a Shahna-i-Mandi to ensure the implementation of the market reforms.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

16. Recently TAPAS was seen in the news, which of the following is the objective of this initiative?

(a) To provide courses in the field of social defence for the capacity building of stakeholders.
(b) To provide capacity building of the workforce in the tourism industry.
(c) To facilitate research in the technological institutes at the higher education level.
(d) To improve primary education in the tribal-dominated aspirational districts through capacity building at the local level.

17. Which of the following were in the court of Chandragupta-II?

1. Harisena
2. Kalidasa
3. Sushruta

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Third Battle of Panipat that occurred in 1761:

1. Marathas' army was led by Sadashivrao Bhau.
2. While the Afghan army was outnumbered by the Marathas, the former was better equipped than the latter.
3. Rajputs and Sikhs fought on the side of Marathas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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19. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Term		***Description***
1. Vellalar	:	Large landowners
2. Uzhavar	:	Slaves
3. Adimai	:	Ploughmen

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

20. Which of the following events is/are associated with the Muhammad bin Tughlaq?

1. Transfer of capital from Delhi to Kolkata
2. Successful invasions of Qarachil region and Qandahar
3. Establishment of the Diwan-i Kohi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None

21. With reference to the changes in the later Vedic period, consider the following statements:

1. The popular Assemblies of Vidatha, Sabha, and Samiti completely disappeared in later Vedic times.
2. Indra and Agni as supreme Rig Vedic Gods lost their importance in the later Vedic period.
3. The institution of gotra appeared in the later Vedic times and people began to practice gotra exogamy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None

22. With reference to the medieval period of India, the terms *amara, bhandaravada,* and *manya* refer to

(a) taxes on guilds during the Rashtrakuta period.
(b) land tenure systems during Vijayanagar empire.
(c) penalties imposed on traders violating trade rules.
(d) types of road networks built during Sher Shah dynasty.

23. Consider the following statements about the Prakrit language:

1. It was adopted by Jainism.
2. It was the official language of the Satavahanas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. Which of the following are the main features of Dravidian style temple architecture?

1. Sculptures of Dvarapalas (doorkeepers) on the gateways of temples.
2. Multiple shikharas rising together as a cluster.
3. Presence of a large water reservoir within the temple complex.
4. Images of mithunas and the river goddesses at the entrance of garbhagriha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 3 and 4 only

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25. With reference to Sufism, consider the following statements:

1. Bashara silsilahs were those orders that followed the Islamic Law and its directives.
2. Be-shara silsilahs were not bound by the Sharia.
3. Chishti silsilahs belonged to the Be-shara silsilah.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

26. Akbar was the first Mughal ruler who had the time and means to undertake construction on a large scale. In this context, which of the following monuments were built by Akbar?

1. Buland Darwaza
2. Moti Masjid at Agra fort
3. Ala'i Darwaza
4. Panch Mahal

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

27. Consider the following statements with reference to the craft production during the Indus Valley civilization:

1. The dancing girl figurine discovered at Mohenjodaro is made of copper.
2. The Harappan pottery is well baked with floral and faunal patterns.

Which of the statement given above are is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

28. Recently the trilateral Colombo Security Conclave was held. It is a conclave between which of the following two nations along with Sri Lanka?

(a) India and China
(b) India and Japan
(c) India and Maldives
(d) Australia and India

29. Recently which of the following developed 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit', India's first such toolkit?

(a) NITI Aayog
(b) IIT Roorkee and IISc Bangalore with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
(d) Infosys

30. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sulvasutras:

1. These are appendices to Vedas providing spatial and directional parameters required for the construction of altars.
2. Pythagorean Theorem is mentioned in the Sulvasutras.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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31. With reference to the Commission for Air quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the provisions of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
2. It will replace the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) of the National Capital Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

32. With reference to Rig Vedic religion, consider the following statements:

1. The natural forces were personified making the religion naturalistic and polytheistic.
2. The dominant mode of worshipping God was through the recitation of prayers and offering sacrifices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

33. With reference to the Delhi Sultanate, Khut, Muqaddam and Patwari were the

(a) Agricultural lands
(b) Water storage reservoirs
(c) Judicial officials working under the emperor
(d) Village functionaries working in close coordination with the muqti

34. Which of the following temples were built by Cholas?

1. Papanatha Temple
2. Brihadeeswara Temple
3. Airavatesvara Temple

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

35. Digambara and Shvetambara are the two major sects of Jainism. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Shvetambaras acknowledge the possibility of women attaining Jina-hood while Digambaras do not.
2. Shvetambaras provided the option of wearing or not wearing clothes while Digambaras emphasized the necessity of nudity for members of the Jain order.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

36. Recently, Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme was seen in the news, consider the following statements with reference to it:

1. Under the scheme, the exporters will be compensated for the non-creditable duty/tax costs that are embedded in the export goods.
2. The exporters from Special Economic Zones (SEZ) are not covered under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

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37. In the context of the Mauryan age, *samaharta* referred to:

(a) Treasury head of the Mauryan empire.

(b) Executive official responsible for the assessment of the taxes.

(c) The chief custodian of the state treasury and storehouse.

(d) Head of the food grains department.

38. With reference to Satavahanas, which of the following statements is ***not*** correct?

(a) Silver coins called Karshapanas were used for trade by the Satavahanas.

(b) Kalyani was the major port of the Satavahanas on the eastern coast.

(c) Vihara at Nashik carry the inscriptions of Nahapana and Gautamiputra.

(d) Gathasattasai was a famous book written by Hala.

39. Consider the following statements with reference to the Gurjara Pratihara dynasty:

1. They were one of the four patrilineal clans of the caste group referred to as Rajputs.
2. Their style of administration was based on the teachings of Kautilya's Arthashastra.
3. In order to expand their kingdom, the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom was involved in the tripartite struggle for Kanauj.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

40. Which of the following texts were written by Ashvaghosha?

1. Saundarananda
2. Buddha-charita
3. Milinda panho

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 2 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

41. Which of the following statements is ***not*** correct with respect to the Rig Vedic Culture?

(a) The Aryans fought battles with non-Aryans and also among themselves.

(b) The Rig Vedic people were acquainted with agricultural knowledge.

(c) Slaves were given as gifts to be employed in agriculture or other producing activities.

(d) Most of the wars were fought for the sake of cows by the Rig Vedic Aryans.

42. Consider the following passage:

The Stupa has an upper as well as a lower circumambulatory path. It has four beautifully decorated toranas depicting various events from the life of the Buddha and the Jatakas. The historical narratives such as the siege of Kushinara, Buddha's visit to Kapilavastu, are carved with considerable details. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989.

Which of the following Buddhist Stupas is being described in the above passage?

(a) Chaukhandi stupa

(b) Sanchi Stupa

(c) Bharhut stupa

(d) Dhameka stupa

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43. With reference to the slave trade in medieval India, consider the following statements:

1. Deccan sultanates were systematically recruiting slaves from ethnic communities of Abyssinian highlands.
2. Ibn Battuta called them 'guarantors of safety' for ships traveling in the Indian Ocean.
3. The present city of Aurangabad was founded by an African slave.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

44. Consider the following statements with reference to the Central Board of Film Certification in India;

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
2. The Chairman and members of the board are appointed by the President of India.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

45. Recently Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM) was seen in the news, which one of the following statements is correct with reference to it?

(a) It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade to monitor development infrastructure projects through an efficient clearance mechanism.
(b) It is an initiative of the Securities and Exchange Board of India to strengthen the regulation over secondary market participants.
(c) It is an initiative of the Ministry of Finance to develop the micro-insurance sector in rural India.
(d) It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India to strengthen compliance by creditors.

46. A celebrated Indian astronomer and mathematician of the 12th century AD, he was born at Bijapur and was a pioneer in the principles of differential calculus. He was the author of Siddhant Siromoni which is divided into four sections. He also acknowledged that any number divided by zero is infinity and the sum of any number and infinity is also infinity.

Which of the following personalities has been described in the passage given above?

(a) Padmanabha
(b) Brahmgupta
(c) Varahmira Adityadasa
(d) Bhaskarachaya

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47. With reference to the agricultural technologies in the Harappan Civilization, consider the following statements:

1. The technique of multiple cropping was known to the inhabitants of the Indus Valley Civilization.
2. Water reservoirs were built to store water for irrigation purposes.
3. Terracotta models of plough have been found at the sites of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

48. The Mahajanpad embraced the area occupied by eastern Uttar Pradesh and had its capital at Shravasti, it contained an important city called Ayodhya, which is associated with the story of Ramayana. It extended across both banks of the Sarayu (modern Ghaghara) River and north into what is now Nepal.

Identify the Mahajandpad from the passage given above.

(a) Kashi
(b) Avanti
(c) Koshala
(d) Vatsa

49. According to Buddhist philosophy, the world is characterized by Anicca and Anatta. What is the meaning of the terms Anicca and Anatta?

(a) Impermanent and soulless respectively
(b) soulless and suffering respectively
(c) suffering and impermanent respectively
(d) soulless and impermanent respectively

50. With reference to the Sultanganj Buddha image, consider the following statements:

1. It was sculpted using the lost wax technique.
2. It is made completely of copper.
3. His right hand is in Abhaya Mudra's posture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

51. In the context of the agrarian structure during the Gupta period, consider the following pairs:

Term		*Description*
1. Khila	:	wasteland
2. Vasti	:	Habitable land
3. Gapata saraha	:	Pastoral land

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

52. Which of the following statements were correct regarding the Vijayanagara architecture?

1. The temples had the presence of large Raya Gopurams.
2. Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars were located in temple premises.
3. Elephant was the most common animal found in temple pillars.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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53. The physiographic division of the ancient Tamizhakam is referred to as *"Tinai"*. With reference to the "Tinai" system consider the following statements:

1. The Kurinji Tinai tract was inhabited by the hunting tribes such as *vedar* and *parayar*.
2. Each Tinai tract had a specific deity as well as a tree associated with it.
3. The Sangam text Tolkapiyyam explicitly mentions five *"Tinais"* in the ancient Tamizhakam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

54. Consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the popular folk dramas of Tamil Nadu.
2. A cycle of eight plays based on the life of Draupadi is part of the core of its repertoire.
3. It is performed at annual temple festivals for rich harvest.

Which of the following is being described in the above given statements?

(a) Mudiyettu
(b) Therukoothu
(c) Krishnattam
(d) Dashavatar

55. With reference to traditional theatres of India, consider the following pairs:

Theatre		***State***
1. Bhavai	:	Odisha
2. Bhaona	:	Assam
3. Mudiyettu	:	Andhra Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

56. Consider the following statements regarding the prehistoric site of Belan Valley:

1. All the three phases of the Palaeolithic followed by Mesolithic and Neolithic have been found in sequence in the valley.
2. Remains of domesticated animals have been discovered from the site.
3. It is in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

57. Masattuvan' in Tamil and 'Setthis' and 'Satthavahas' in Prakrit during ancient India, referred to which of the following?

(a) Bonded labor
(b) Commander of the army
(c) Revenue minister
(d) Merchant

58. "It is an eastern Indian tradition which represents a blend of martial traditions, temple rituals, and folk dances. Episodes from the epics Mahabharata, Ramayana and abstract themes are played through the medium of dance and a music ensemble that consists primarily of indigenous drums. It is included in the UNESCO's list of Intangible cultural heritage"

The above passage describes which of the following dance-forms?

(a) Chhau dance
(b) Kalbelia dance
(c) Firkal dance
(d) Pandav Nritya

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59. Consider the following statements:

1. Treaty of Purandar was signed between Shivaji and a representative of Mughal emperor Shahjahan.
2. As per the treaty, Shivaji had to surrender many of the 35 forts that he had held.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

60. With reference to the mansabdari system under the Mughals in India, consider the following statements:

1. The mansab awarded to an individual fixed both his status in the official hierarchy and his salary.
2. Sawar denoted personal rank of an official and Zat indicated the size of contingents maintained by the mansabdars.
3. Du-aspa sih-aspa was associated with the mansabdari system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

61. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Samudragupta of the Gupta dynasty?

1. The Allahabad Pillar inscription provides a detailed account of his reign.
2. He undertook the famous Dakshinapatha expedition against South Indian rulers.
3. Kalidasa was patronized by Samudragupta

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

62. Consider the following pairs:

GI Tag paintings		***Heritage of***
1. Madhubani paintings	:	Bihar
2. Sohrai-Khovar paintings	:	Chhattisgarh
3. Cheriyal paintings	:	Telangana

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

63. Krishna Deva Raya is considered the greatest emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire. In this context consider the following statements:

1. He belonged to the Tuluva dynasty of the Vijayanagara Empire.
2. He was a contemporary of Mughal dynasty founder, Babur.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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64. Consider the following passage :

He was the most remarkable figure of the Bahmani Sultanate. He was knowledgeable in religious sciences and commentaries on the Quran. He was particularly interested in the natural sciences such as botany, geometry, logic, etc. He was passionate about astronomy and built an observatory near Daulatabad. He inducted Hindus on a large scale in the administration. He also married the daughter of Vijayanagara ruler Deva Raya I.

Which of the following personalities is being described in the above passage?

(a) Ibrahim Adil Shah
(b) Firuz Shah Bahmani
(c) Ahmed Shah Wali Bahmani
(d) Mahmud Gawan

65. Women occupied a very honorable position in the Vijayanagar society. Despite this many social evils prevailed during the Vijayanagara period. In this context, which of the following practices were prevalent in the Vijayanagara Empire?

1. Devadasi System
2. Sati
3. Kanyadana

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

66. Consider the following pairs:

Harappan sites		***Important findings***
1. Lothal	:	Great Bath
2. Dholavira	:	Stadium
3. Kalibangan	:	Dockyard

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 only

67. Which of the following is/are the bowed string musical instruments?

1. Sarangi
2. Banam
3. Violin

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

68. Consider the following statements regarding the Gandhara School of Art:

1. Gandhara School was associated with the Greco-Roman style of art.
2. Gandhara Art is characterised by elaborate ornamentation.
3. There was extensive use of white marble stone in Gandhara School.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

69. With reference to e-Shram portal, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to extend the benefits of the social security schemes to unorganised sectors workers.
2. An e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number will be provided to the beneficiaries after registration.
3. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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70. Which of the following is/are the striking feature(s) of the Tughlaq architecture?

1. Buildings with sloping walls
2. Extensive use of red sandstone
3. Buildings having minimum decoration

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

71. Consider the following statements with respect to trinity (three important musicians) of Carnatic Music:

1. Kritis composed by Shyama Shastri are in praise of Goddess Kamakshi of Kanchi.
2. All the three scholars composed their kritis in Sanskrit only.
3. Tyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar are contemporaries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

72. Which of the following statements is ***not*** correct regarding the socio-economic conditions during the early medieval period?

(a) The hereditary chiefs rose to a dominant position during this period.
(b) The feudal order weakened the village self government.
(c) The peasants had to pay taxes and render forced labour.
(d) There was no slavery during this period.

73. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Kuchipudi classical dance?

1. The music in Kuchipudi is classical Carnatic music.
2. Dancing on the rim of a brass plate with a pitcher full of water on the head is part of the dance.
3. Since its inception, Kuchipudi is being performed as solo dance only.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

74. Consider the following statements regarding the Nalanda School of Sculpture:

1. Nalanda School of Sculpture is influenced by the Sarnath style of sculpture.
2. Sculptures are usually depicted in three-dimensional forms.
3. The sculptures mostly depict Buddhist deities of the Hinayana sect.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

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75. Consider the following statements with respect to the field of paintings during the Mughal period:

1. The masters of miniature painting Abdus Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali were courtiers of Humayun.
2. Portrait painting gained prominence during the regime of Aurangzeb.
3. European painting was introduced in Akbar's court by the Portuguese.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

76. With reference to Sujalam Campaign, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a mission mode campaign to ensure connections of portable drinking water in every household in urban areas.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

77. Losoong festival, is celebrated to mark the new year in which of the following states?

(a) Manipur
(b) Tripura
(c) Meghalaya
(d) Sikkim

78. Consider the following statements with respect to the wall paintings at Bhimbetka:

1. The timeline for the Bhimbetka paintings starts from Paleolithic period and continues beyond Mesolithic period.
2. In the paintings man is depicted hunting animals.
3. Rock shelters of Bhimbetka is recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

79. With reference to the Digital Payments Index, consider the following statements:

1. It ranks states based on the extent of digitisation of payments.
2. It is released by NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

80. Consider the following pairs :

Cultural traditions		***Category***
1. Mallakhamb	:	Shadow Puppetry
2. Pari Khanda	:	Martial art
3. Maach	:	Theatre art

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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81. Recently Sukhet Model was seen in the news. It is associated with
(a) water conservation
(b) organic waste management
(c) sacred grove conservation
(d) community participation in agriculture

82. Consider the following pairs:

Regional/Folk music		***State***
1. Sana Lamok	:	Mizoram
2. Powada	:	Maharashtra
3. Sohar	:	Punjab

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

83. Which of the following characterize Hindustani Classical Music?
1. Presence of Gharanas
2. Assimilation of elements of Persian and Arabian music
3. Different styles of composition include Javali and Kirtanam

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

84. Consider the following pairs:

Inscription		***Dynasty***
1. Besanagar pillared inscription	:	Shunga
2. Rabatak inscription	:	Kushanas
3. Nanaghat inscription	:	Satvahanas
4. Junagadh Rock inscription	:	Shakas

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

85. This region was the main resource area for sandstone used for sculpture in the Ganga valley in ancient and early medieval times. It was a preferred quarry site because of its good quality and its convenient geographical location near the river, which made transportation easier. The Ashokan pillars are entirely made of sandstone quarried at this site.
Which of the following region is being described in the above passage?
(a) Khatu
(b) Dholpur
(c) Dehri-on-Son
(d) Chunar

86. The name 'Veda' is given to the vast body of literature made up of Mantra and Brahmana. In this context, Aitareya Brahmana is a part of
(a) Rigveda
(b) Yajurveda
(c) Samaveda
(d) Atharvaveda

87. With reference to the Iqta system, consider the following statements:
1. The iqta system was used for the first time in India and then adopted in the rest of the world.
2. The Muqti was expected to maintain the army and meet his own expenses with the revenue collected.
3. During the time of Feroze Shah Tughlaq the control of state over iqtas was diluted when iqtas became hereditary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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88. This shadow puppetry uses puppets that are mostly small in size and the puppets differ in size according to their social status. During the performances, puppeteers speak in Kannada but include certain songs or exclamations in Aare Marathi. The episodes of the Ramayana are the principal source of inspiration in the Kannada language. It is mainly prevalent in the state of Karnataka.

Which of the following forms of puppetry is being described in the passage given above?

(a) Yampuri
(b) Tholu Bommalata
(c) Togalu Gombeyatta
(d) Ravanchhaya

89. The Bahmani Kingdom due to its continuous wars with Vijayanagara Empire finally disintegrated into five Deccani Sultanates in the early part of the sixteenth century. In this context, consider the following pairs :

Sultanate		***Founder***
1. Ahmadnagar	:	Malik Ahmad Shah
2. Bijapur	:	Ismail Adil Shah
3. Golconda	:	Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

90. In the context of the Kushana rule in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The Shaka era used by the Government of India was started by King Kanishka.
2. The Kushana Administration showed a high degree of centralization.
3. Charaka was a contemporary of the Kushana king Kanishka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 only

91. The Drug Controller General has recently granted emergency approval to the Zycov-D vaccine. In this context, consider the following statements regarding Zycov-D:

1. It is a DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine that can be administered without a needle.
2. It cannot be administered to individuals who are below 18 years of age.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

92. "Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis" report, recently seen in news, was published by

(a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
(b) Germanwatch
(c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
(d) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

93. Union Cabinet recently approved the implementation of National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm. Consider the following statements regarding edible oil in India:

1. India is the largest importer of edible oil in the world.
2. Palm oil constitutes more than 50% of edible oil imports.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2

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94. The temple dates back to the early eleventh century and was built by Raja Bhimdev I. There is a massive rectangular stepped tank called the surya kund in front of it. A hundred and eight miniature shrines are carved in between the steps inside the tank. A huge ornamental arch-torana leads one to the sabha mandapa (the assembly hall) which is open on all sides. Every year, at the time of the equinoxes, the sun shines directly into this central shrine.

Which of the following temples is being described in the above passage?

(a) Arasavalli sun temple
(b) Bhramanya Dev temple
(c) Modhera temple
(d) Konark sun temple

95. Which of the following institutions is/are of pre-independence origin?

1. Archeological Survey of India
2. Indian Council for Cultural Relations
3. National Archives of India
4. Sahitya Akademy

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 4 only

96. Consider the following pairs:

Festivals/Traditions		***State***
1. Bonalu Festival	:	Telangana
2. Ashadhi Bij	:	Gujarat
3. Dree Festival	:	Arunachal Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

97. Which of the following can be attributed as the reasons for the decline of the Mauryan Empire?

1. Rise of the Mahajanpadas
2. Neglect of the North-West frontier
3. Financial crisis due to enormous expenditure on the army
4. Brahmanical reaction as a result of Ashoka's policy of Dhamma.
5. Invasion by Alexander

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

(a) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 2, 4 and 5 only

98. Consider the following statements with reference to the history of rock cut architecture in India:

1. The use of chaitya arch in stone was seen for the first time in Barabar Caves.
2. Barabar Caves are carved out of single monolithic granite rock.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

99. With reference to the World Heritage Sites consider the following pairs:

World Heritage Site		***State***
1. Airavateshvara temple	:	Tamil Nadu
2. Victorian Gothic Ensemble	:	Goa
3. Jantar Mantar	:	Delhi
4. Virupaksha temple	:	Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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100. Consider the following statements with reference to Vakataka Dynasty:

1. The Vakataka Empire was founded by a Kshatriya chieftain in regions of Bengal.
2. The rock-cut Buddhist Viharas and Chaityas of Ajanta Caves were built under the patronage of Vakatakas.
3. They had formed matrimonial ties with their neighbors including the Guptas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

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ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS
GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 3481 (2022)

Q 1.A

- After Sultan, the most important office was the **Diwan-i-Wizarat, headed by the wazir.** It was a **key position in the royal court** and his role was of a general supervisor over all departments, though he was one of the four important departmental heads. He was the **chief advisor to the Sultan. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- The main functions of the wazir were to look after the financial organization of the State, give advice to the Sultan, and on occasions to lead military expeditions at Sultan's behest.
- He also supervised the payment to the army.
- The wizarat or the office of wazir also kept a check on land revenue collections, maintained a record of all the income and expenditure incurred by the state and thus controlled or recorded the salaries of all royal servants, handled the charitable donations such as Waqfs, Inams etc.
- Further, the Mints, the intelligence departments, the royal buildings, and other bodies affiliated to the royal court were supervised by the wizarat.
- The wazir had direct access to the Sultan and it was on his wisdom, sincerity and loyalty that the position of the Sultan depended greatly.
- There were several other departments which worked under the wizarat. They were entrusted with specific functions. These included Mustaufi-i-Mumalik (Auditor-General), **Mushrif-i-Mumalik (Accountant General)**, Majmuadar (Keeper of loans and balances from the treasury). Later some other offices were brought under the supervision of the Wizarat like Diwan-i -Waqoof (to supervise expenditure), Diwan-iMustakharaj (to look into the arrears of revenue payments), Diwan-i-Amir Kohi (to bring uncultivated land into cultivation through state support).

Q 2.A

- **Amir Khusrau (1253–1325) was a contemporary of Balban, Jalaluddin Khilji and Alauddin Khilji**.
  - He introduced many **new ragas** such as Ghora and Sanam.
  - He evolved a new style of light music known as **Qawwalis** by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems.
  - The invention of the **sitar** was also attributed to him.
  - Credited to have introduced the ghazal style of the song into India, Amir Khusrau was also the one who **introduced Persian, Arabic and Turkish elements into Indian classical music.** Through this fusion, he created many ragas like zilf, maan, sajgari.
  - Amir Khusrau wrote a masnavi on the **Tughlaq dynasty ruler, Mubarak Shah as "Nuh Sipihr" (Nine Skies) relating the events of Mubarak Shah's rule.**
  - **It was due to his Sufi orientation h acquired mainly learnings from his spiritual mentor, Nizamuddin Auliya, His poetry offers a powerful metaphor for secular thinking and living. Hence option (b) and (d) are correct.**
  - **He gave a unique form to the Chishti sama by introducing the qaul (Arabic word meaning "saying"), a hymn sung at the opening or closing of qawwali.** This was followed by sufi poetry in Persian, Hindavi or Urdu, and sometimes using words from all of these languages. Qawwals (those who sing these songs) at the shrine of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya always start their recital with the qaul. **Hence option (c) is correct.**
  - With his second collection of verses, **Wast-ul-Hayat**, Amir Khusrau's name spread from house to house, wide and far and he came to be known in Persia as well. The famous poet of Persia, Sa'di sent him compliments.
  - He **wrote poetry in Persian as well as what he called Hindavi, a combination of local Bhojpuri and Persian**, which later evolved into Hindi and Urdu.

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- He composed songs and riddles in the more common spoken dialect of the time, called **'Dehlavi Hindi'**.
- **In 1321 Khusrau began to write a historic masnavi named Tughlaq Nama (Book of the Tughlaqs) about the reign of Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq** and that of other Tughlaq rulers. **Firoz Tughlaq's reign started in 1351 AD. Hence option (a) is not correct.**
- When Nizammudin Auliya passed away Khusrau tore his clothes and blackened his face and went to his master's grave. In a few months' time, in 1325 AD, Khusrau too passed away and was buried near that grave as desired by the master. These graves are a place of pilgrimage for both Hindus and Muslims to the present.

Q 3.A

- Recently, **UNESCO** has conferred the **World Heritage Site status** to the historic **Rudreswara Temple**, also known as the **Ramappa Temple,** at Palampet in Mulugu district of **Telangana**. With this, India has a total of **39** World Heritage sites. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Rudreswara temple was constructed in **1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya empire by Recharla Rudra**, a general of Kakatiya king **Ganapati Deva.** The temple is dedicated to **Ramalingeswara Swamy (Lord Shiva)** and worshipped by devotees. It is also known as the Ramappa temple, after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years. **Hence statements 2 and 3 are not correct.**
- The temple complexes of Kakatiyas have a distinct style, technology and decoration exhibiting the influence of the Kakatiyan sculptor. The Ramappa Temple is a manifestation of this and often stands as a testimonial to the **Kakatiyan** creative genius. The temple stands on a 6 feet high **star-shaped platform with walls**, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings that attest to the unique skill of the **Kakatiyan sculptors.**
- The building features decorated beams and pillars of carved granite and dolerite with a distinctive and **pyramidal Vimana** (horizontally stepped tower) made of **lightweight porous bricks,** so-called 'floating bricks', which reduced the weight of the roof structures.

Q 4.C

- Jainism taught five doctrines:
  - do not commit violence,
  - do not speak a lie,
  - do not steal,
  - do not acquire property and
  - observe continence (brahmacharya).
- It is said that only the **fifth doctrine (observe continence)** was added by Mahavira, the other four were taken over by him from previous teachers. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
- Jainism attached the utmost importance to ahimsa or non-injury to living beings. Sometimes it led to absurd results, for some Jain kings ordered the execution of persons guilty of killing animals.

Q 5.D

- Turks who came to India were deeply influenced by the Persian language which had become the literary and administrative language of Central Asia from the tenth century onwards.
- From the beginning of the Delhi Sultanate, the Turks adopted Persian as the language of literature and administration in the country. Most notable Persian writer of the period was Amir Khusrau.
- Apart from poetry, a strong school of history writing in Persian developed in India during the period. The most famous historians of this period were Ziauddin Barani, Afif, and Isami.
- Through the Persian language, India was able to develop close cultural relations with Central Asia and Iran. In course of time, Persian became not only the language of administration and diplomacy but also the language of the upper classes and their dependents.
- Thus, Sanskrit and Persian functioned as link languages in the country in politics, religion and philosophy, as well as being means of literary productions
- Many indigenous books were translated into Persian under the patronage of the new rulers.
  - **Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin of Kashmir had the famous historical work Rajatarangini and the Mahabharata translated into Persian.** At his instance, Sanskrit works on medicine and music were also translated into Persian.
  - **Indian classical music work Ragdarpan was also translated into Persian during the reign of Firoz Tughlaq.**

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- Zia Nakhshabi translated the Sanskrit stories which were related by a parrot to a woman whose husband had gone on a journey into Persian. This book was called Tuti Nama (Book of the Parrot) and became very popular and was further translated from Persian into many European languages as well.

- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 6.A

- The Chishti order was founded in a village called Khwaja Chishti (near Herat). In India, the Chishti silsilah was founded by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti (born c. 1142) who came to India around 1192. He made Ajmer the main centre for his teaching.
- **Baba Farid's most famous disciple Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya (1238-1325)** was responsible for making Delhi an important center of the Chishti silsilah.
- He came to Delhi in 1259 and during his sixty years in Delhi, he saw the reign of seven sultans.
- He preferred to shun the company of rulers and nobles and kept aloof from the state.
- For him, **renunciation meant the distribution of food and clothes to the poor.** Amongst his followers was the noted writer Amir Khusrau. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 7.B

- In terms of the classical tradition formulated in the Natyashastra, dance and music are an inextricable part of drama.
- As per the ancient treatises, dance is considered as having three aspects: natya, nritya and nritta.
  - **Natya** highlights the **dramatic element** and most dance forms do not give emphasis to this aspect today with the exception of dance-drama forms like Kathakali.
  - **Nritya** is essentially expressional, performed specifically to convey the **meaning of a theme or idea. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - **Nritta** on the other hand, is **pure dance** where body movements do **not express any mood** (bhava), nor do they convey any meaning.
- To present nritya and natya effectively, a dancer should be trained to communicate the **navarasas**. These are: **love (shringaara), mirth (haasya), compassion (karuna), valour (veera), anger (roudra), fear (bhayanak), disgust (bibhatsa), wonder (adbhuta) and peace (shaanta).**

Q 8.C

- The Ajivika was an **unorthodox sect** which **emerged at the same time as the rise of Buddhism and Jainism. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The sect was founded by **Gosala Maskariputra** in the 5th century BC.
- Ajivikas led a simple **ascetic life,** without clothes and any material possession. **They practiced complete nudity. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The school revolves around the **Niyati (destiny) doctrine** of absolute determinism. It believes that there is no free will and whatever has happened, is happening, or will happen is entirely pre-ordained or pre-decided and is based on cosmic principles. **Hence there was no use of Karma. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - It is based on the theory of atoms and believes that everything is composed of atoms and the various qualities emerge from the aggregates of atoms which is pre-determined.
  - They opposed Buddhism and Jainism and were atheists. They did not believe in Karma doctrine, unlike Jainism and Buddhism. They consider Karma a fallacy.
  - They also rejected the authority of Vedas like Buddhism and Jainism. However, they believed in the existence of the soul (atman) in every living being like Jainism. But they believed in the existence of the soul in a material form whereas Jainism propounds formless soul.
- Bindusaar (4th century BC) was one of its followers.
- Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh is believed to be the center of Ajivikas.
- **Ashoka's seventh pillar** edicts mention Ajivikas.

Q 9.B

- The development of science and technology in India went through phases of rigorous experimentation. There are different areas of application of science and technology such as :
  - Metallurgy smelting of metals
  - Distillation of perfumes
  - Making of dyes and pigments
  - Extraction of sugar
  - Production of paper

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  - Production of gunpowder
  - The casting of cannons etc
- **The development of metallurgy started in India from bronze age.** The best evidence is of the Indian metallurgy of the **iron pillar of Mehrauli in Delhi and Sultanganj Buddha idol in Bihar.** They have not got rusted yet even after thousands of years later after its manufacture. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
- Although the paper was well known in other parts of the world, **a Chinese official working in the Imperial court during the Han Dynasty (202 BCE- 220 BCE), is attributed with the invention of paper. The use of paper in India began in the Medieval period**. In India, during ancient times the preservation of ancient literature was generally done on palm leaves. Though Amir Khusrau also mentions the use of paper, **the first paper industry was developed in Kashmir, established by Sultan Zainul Abedin (Shahi Khan) of Kashmir in 1417-67 AD. Hence option 2 is not correct.**
- After the advent of the Mughals, the manufacture of **gunpowder and its use also started in India** hence it is also a medieval period discovery. **Hence option 3 is not correct.**
  - Gunpowder consists of saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal, and it was first invented in China. Later, it spread to Islamic society.
  - The immigrant Turks brought gunpowder to India perhaps in the late 13th or early 14th century.
  - But it must be pointed out that even by the reign of Sultan Feroz Shah Tughluq its only use was for pyrotechny or fireworks (atashbazi), not for firearms or for propelling cannon-balls.
  - Firearms were used for the first time during the second half of the 15th century in some regions of India like Gujarat, Malwa, and the Deccan. At any rate, the use of firearms on a regular basis was introduced by the Portuguese when they came to Calicut in A.D. 1498, and by Babur in North India in the early 16th century.
- **Dyes and pigments Were made during ancient times generally from vegetable products** apart from minerals, alkalize, and other natural elements. This is also evident from various ancient paintings. **Hence option 4 is correct.**

Q 10.C

- The Sangam age refers to that period in the early history of south India when large numbers of poems in Tamil were composed by a number of authors. . The term Sangam refers to an assembly or "meeting together" of Tamil poets. Traditionally, three Sangams or assemblies are believed to have been convened one after the other. All the three Sangams took place at different places under the patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.
- Women in the Sangam period appear to have been educated. This is testified by many poems contributed by women poets to the Sangam literature. Women are also described as engaged in various economic activities such as paddy plantation, cattle rearing, basket-making, spinning, etc. However, **the cruel practice of Sati was also prevalent in Tamil society, and it was known as tippayadal.** But **it was not obligatory as there are references to widows present in society.** However, their position was miserable as they were prohibited to decorate themselves or participate in any form of amusement. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The class of warriors was an important element in society during the Sangam age. **Captains of the army were invested with the title of *enadi* at a formal ceremony.** Civil and military officers were held under both the Cholas and the Pandyas **by *vellalas* or rich peasants.** The ruling class was called *arasar* and its members had marriage relations with the vellalas. **Hence statement 3 is not correct**
- The rich did not plough land themselves but employed labourers for this purpose. **Agricultural operations were generally carried on by the members of the lowest class known as *kadaisiyar*. Hence statement 2 is correct**
- We notice sharp social inequalities in the Sangam age. The rich lived in houses of brick and mortar and the poor in huts and humbler structures. In the cities, the rich lived in the upper storey of their house.

Q 11.B

- Many complex designs of flower motifs decorating the ceilings were also to be found on textiles and carpets. In the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries tiles were also used to surface the walls and the domes. Popular colours were blue, turquoise, green and yellow. Subsequently, **the techniques of tessellation (mosaic designs) and pietra dura were made use of for surface decoration particularly in the dado panels of the walls**.
- Pietra-dura is a Pictorial mosaic work using semi-precious stones. It is commonly found on walls, cenotaphs and marble jalis in the Taj Mahal.
- Tessellation is the decoration on walls and floors with mosaic. Mosaic is a surface decoration made by inlaying small pieces of variously coloured material (stones, glasses, etc) to form pictures or patterns.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

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Q 12.A

- **Mesolithic Period** is an intermediate stage in the Stone Age culture which is the **transition phase between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic Age.** In the case of India, **it started about 8000BC and continued till upto 4000BC.**
- Mesolithic sites are found in most parts of India. **They occur in all eco-zones** from the coasts to the hills: sand dunes, rock shelters, deltaic regions, lake areas, forested territories, hilly and mountainous areas, rocky terrains and coastal environments.
- Mesolithic sites in India are found in Paisra (Bihar), Langhnaj (Gujarat), Baghor II, Chopani Mando, Sarai Nahar Rai, Mahadaha and Damdama (all in Uttar Pradesh), Sankanakallu (Andhra) and Kibbanahalli (Karnataka). Rock shelter sites are found in Adamgarh and Bhimbetka.
- **Coastal sites are seen at Mumbai, teri sites in Thoothukudy district (Tamil Nadu) and Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), these sites also have microlithic evidence. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hunting wild animals and gathering plant food and fishing were people's main occupations during this age. Agriculture was not practised in the early stages.
- At the end of the Mesolithic period, humans domesticated animals and paved the way for the Neolithic way of life. The rock paintings of Central India depict hunting, trapping, fishing and plant food collection.
- **The Mesolithic people were highly mobile.** They moved in search of animals and plant foods. **They made temporary huts and also used caves and rock shelters. They lived in semi-permanent and temporary settlements. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The characteristic tool of this age is microliths**. Their microlithic tools enabled them to hunt smaller animals and birds. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 13.C

- **Rajasthani Schools of Painting** refer to the schools of painting that prevailed in the princely kingdoms of what roughly constitutes Rajasthan and parts of Madhya Pradesh in the present time, such as **Mewar, Bundi, Kota, Jaipur, Bikaner, Kishangarh,** Jodhpur (Marwar) etc. In these miniatures, the themes were mostly narrative. The miniatures mains themes were based on **Ragamala, Nayak-Nayika-Bhed, Baramasa, Ramayana,** Rasamanjari, Krishna Lila etc. On the basis of geographical diversities and local interests, the art of Rajasthan can be classified into several sub-schools of miniature paintings.
- **Mewar Sub school:** Mewar is conjectured to be a significant early centre of painting in Rajasthan.
  - The emergence of the Mewar School is widely associated with an early dated set of **Ragamala paintings** painted at Chawand in 1605 by an artist named **Nisardin**.
  - The reign of **Jagat Singh I** (1628–1652) is recognised as the period when pictorial aesthetics got reformulated under virtuoso artists **Sahibdin and Manohar,** who added new vitality to the style and vocabulary of Mewar paintings.
  - **Sahibdin painted the Ragamala, Rasikapriya, Bhagvata Purana and the Yuddha Kanda of Ramayana.** Painting in the eighteenth century increasingly slithered away from textual representations to courtly activities and pastime of the royals.
  - **Maru Ragini** is an important miniature painting of **Ragamala series painted by Sahibdin.** In this painting of 18th century, the king and the queen are shown riding on a camel back in desert background. Their apparels have been shown transparent and decorated with adornment. This painting belongs to the **sub school of Mewar** and has been surrounded by simple border of orange colour. The calligraphic work in **Devnagari** Script has also been done on the top of the painting. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
- **Kishangarh Sub school:** Mysterious beauty of women is the life of Kishangarh style of painting. The immortal paintings like **Bani Thani** and the paintings of king Sawant Sing are the identity of Kishangarh style.
- **Bundi Sub School:** The art skills of Bundi style are unique due to the conjugation of the **Mughal and Deccan art elements.**
- **Jodhpur Sub School:** Jodhpur got art tradition in heritage from Mewar. In the beginning of the 17th century, it was known for **Pali Ragmala** paintings. Pure indigenous delineation is the stylistic characteristics of these paintings.

Q 14.C

- **Recent Context: Indian astrophysicists spot rare merger, they discovered three super-massive Black Holes Merging. The study has been published as a letter in the 'Astronomy and Astrophysics' journal.**

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- **The supermassive black holes, which are several million solar masses in size, are at the centres of galaxies and are known as Active Galactic Nuclei.** Since they "accrete" matter, they often have a glow around them which can be observed using light spectroscopy.
- **The group observed these galaxies with a near-infrared telescope in South Africa. And then later on they also observed them with the UVIT (onboard ASTROSAT).**
- Indian researchers have discovered three supermassive black holes from three galaxies merging to form a triple active galactic nucleus, a compact region at the centre of a newly discovered galaxy that has a much-higher-than-normal luminosity. This rare occurrence in our nearby Universe indicates that small merging groups are ideal laboratories to detect multiple accreting supermassive black holes and increases the possibility of detecting such rare occurrences.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 15.D

- Alauddin's measures to control the markets were one of the most important policy initiatives. Ala-ud-din was the first Sultan to pay his soldiers in cash rather than give them a share of booty. As the soldiers were paid less, the prices had to be monitored and controlled.
- Since Alauddin wanted to maintain a large army, **he, therefore, lowered and fixed the price of the commodities of daily use. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- To control the prices, Alauddin set up three different markets for different commodities in Delhi.
- These markets were the grain market (Mandi), cloth market (Sarai Adl), and the market for horses, slaves, cattle, etc.
- To ensure implementation, Alauddin appointed a **superintendent (Shahna-i-Mandi) who was assisted by an intelligence officer. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Control of prices of horses was very important for the Sultan because without the supply of good horses at reasonable prices to the army, the efficiency of the army could not be ensured. **Low prices in the horse market** were ensured by putting a stop to the purchase of horses by horse dealers and brokers (dalals) in the Delhi market. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 16.A

- **Recent Context: Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment has launched Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services (TAPAS)** to offer massive open online courses (MOOC). **TAPAS has been developed by the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD).**
- TAPAS will provide five basic courses on Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and on comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.
- TAPAS seeks to provide access to lectures by subject experts, study material and more, but in a manner that it supplements the physical classroom without compromising on the quality of teaching. **The main objective of introducing the course modules is to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants.** It can be taken up by anyone who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics and there is no fee for joining.
- **TAPAS is a standard MOOC platform with course material such as filmed lectures and e-study material. It also includes discussion forums to support and encourage interactions among students and course coordinators.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 17.C

- **Chandragupta-II (A.D. 380-412)** was known for his deep interest in art and culture and nine gems or Navratna adorned his court. He enjoyed the titles 'Vikramaditya (the sun of prowess) and **'Sakari'.** His reign is often remembered not for wars but for his patronage of Art and Literature. The Court of Chandragupta was adorned by celebrated scholars collectively known as **'Navaratnas'. Kalidasa,** the great Sanskrit poet and play Wright, flourished in his court.
- **Harisena** is known to have composed the **Prayag Prasasti or Allahabad Pillar Inscription.** The title of this inscription of Kavya, but has both prose and verse. Harisena in his old age was in the court of Chandragupta.
- The two famous practitioners of Ayurveda in ancient India were **Charaka (1st-2nd centuries C.E.) and Sushruta (c. 4th century C.E.)** Charak Samhita, written by Charak is a remarkable book on medicine. In his treatise, Susruta Samhita, Sushruta speaks about elaborate surgical procedures.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

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Q 18.A

- The Third Battle of Panipat took place on 14 January 1761 at Panipat between the Maratha Empire and the invading Afghan army of Ahmad Shah Abdali.
- In this battle, Afghan forces were led by Ahmad Shah Abdali.
- **Marathas forces were led by Sadashivrao Bhau. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The reasons for Marathas defeat were:**
  - **Abdali's forces were numerically superior to the Marathas and also Abdali's forces were better organized and also better equipped. The use of swivel guns mounted on camels caused havoc in the Maratha forces.**
    - **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - Near famine conditions prevailed in the Maratha camp as the road to Delhi was cut off.
  - **The Maratha policy of indiscriminate plunder had estranged both Muslim and Hindu powers like Jats, Rajputs and Sikhs.**
    - **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - But Abdali was supported by Muslim powers of North India like Rohilla Afghans of the Doab and Shuja-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Oudh.
  - Mutual jealousies of the Maratha commanders considerable weakened their side
- **The political significance of the Third Battle of Panipat -**
  - Though Maratha suffered heavy loss of human lives in the battle, Maratha's power soon began to prosper as before. It continued to do so for forty years until British supremacy was established by the second Anglo-Maratha war (1803).
  - By the death of great Maratha captains, path was opened for the guilty ambitions of Raghunath Rao.
  - It lowered Maratha's prestige in the Indian political world.
  - Maratha dream of an all-India empire was irrevocably lost.
  - It cleared the way for the rise of the British Empire in India.

Q 19.A

- **Differences in rural society:**
  - While technologies led to an increase in production, the benefits were very uneven. What is evident is that there was a growing differentiation amongst people engaged in agriculture – stories, especially within the Buddhist tradition, refer to landless agricultural laborers, small peasants, as well as large landholders. The term **gahapati** was often used in Pali texts to designate the second and third categories. The large landholders, as well as the village headman (whose position was often hereditary), emerged as powerful figures and often exercised control over other cultivators.
  - Early Tamil literature (the Sangam texts) also mentions different categories of people living in the villages – **large landowners or Vellalar, ploughmen or uzhavar,** and **slaves or adimai.** It is likely that these differences were based on differential access to land, labor, and some of the new technologies. In such a situation, questions of control over land must have become crucial, as these were often discussed in legal texts.
  - **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 20.C

- One of the controversial measures of Muhammad bin Tughlaq was that he **transferred his capital from Delhi to Deogir (Daultabad). Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - According to Dr. Mahdi Hussain, the Sultan wanted to maintain both Delhi and Daulatabad as his capitals.
  - As per Barani, in AD 1326–27, Sultan decided to shift his capital from Delhi to Deogir (Daultabad) in the Deccan because it was more centrally located.
  - The entire population was not asked to leave only the upper classes consisting of shaikhs, nobles, ulema were shifted to Daulatabad.
- Muhammad Tughlaq decided to secure the frontier. The region from Lahore to Kalanur including Peshawar was conquered and new administrative control was established. Besides, the Sultan also planned invasions of **Qarachil region (In present day Himachal) and Qandhar but did not succeed. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- He started a new department for the **development of Agriculture.** It was called **Diwan-i Kohi.** Peasants were given financial support to help in arranging seeds for cultivation. This loan was also given in case of crop failures. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

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Q 21.A

- The most important change in the later Vedic period was the rise and growth of social differentiation in the form of **the varna system. The four varnas in which society came to be divided were the Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, vaishyas, and Shudras.**
- The **institution of Gotra appeared in the later Vedic times**. Literally, it means cow pen or the place where cattle belonging to the whole clan are kept, but in course of time, it began to signify descent from a common ancestor.
- **People began to practice gotra exogamy. No marriage could take place between people belonging to the same gotra. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Another important institution that began to take shape was **ashrama or different stages of life**.
- **Brahmacharya** (student life), **grihastha** (householder), and **vanaprastha** (hermitage) stages are mentioned in the texts.
- Later, **sannyasa,** the fourth stage also came to be added. Together with varna, it came to be known as varna-ashrama dharma.
- During the Later Vedic period, the upper Ganga Doab was the centre of the Aryan culture. This region is described as the land of Kuru-Panchalas.
- **The Vedic gods Agni and Indra lost their importance. Prajapati became the main deity. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Rudra, the god of rituals, identified with Siva, became important. The Satapatha Brahmana lists the names of Rudra as Pasunampathi, Sarva, Bhava, and Bahikas.
- In later Vedic times, **popular assemblies lost their importance** and royal power increased at their cost. **The Vidatha completely disappeared, however, the sabha and samite continued to hold their ground but their character changed and began to be dominated by rich nobles and princes. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

Q 22.B

- The economic soundness of the Vijayanagara kingdom depended on flourishing agriculture along with trade and commerce. Agriculture was the main occupation of the large sections of the people.
- The Vijayanagara rulers promoted agricultural operations on a large scale by constructing tanks and by providing canals to supply water continuously for irrigational purposes.
- Land revenue during the Vijayanagara period differed from region to region and depended on fertility of the soil.
- The land revenue was paid in cash or in kind.
- **Vijayanagara epigraphs refer to three categories of land tenure: Amara, Bhandaravada and Manya.**
    - **The Bhandaravada villages are crown villages, and a part of this revenue was utilized for the maintenance of forts.**
    - **Manya land villages were tax-free lands and were used to maintain Brahmans, temples etc.**
    - **Amara lands or villages were allotted to Samantas or vassals who utilized the revenue to maintain the armies to be supplied to the king as and when needed.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 23.C

- The early Jainas discarded the Sanskrit Language mainly patronised by the Brahmanas. They adopted the Prakrit language of the common people to preach their doctrines.
    - **The adoption of Prakrit by the Jainas helped the growth of this language and its literature. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - Many regional languages developed out of Prakrit languages, particularly Shauraseni, out of which grew the Marathi language.
- It was the official language of the Satavahanas. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Gandhari Prakrit, spoken in the north-west, in the region that today constitutes Pakistan, was among the more unusual Prakrits. It employed the Kharoshthi script, usually written from right to left, as opposed to Prakrit, which used the Brahmi script that ran from left to right. Gandhari inscriptions have been found in Central Asia and China, indicating that it was used over a wide expanse of geography.

Q 24.A

- The style of temple architecture that became popular in southern India is known as the Dravidian Style of temple architecture. This style of temple architecture flourished roughly from the 8th century to about the 13-14 century A.D. The main features of the Dravida style are

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- Unlike the nagara temple, the Dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall.
- The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, which is known as a gopuram.
- **Sculptures of fierce dvarapalas or the door-keepers guarding the temple**. Whereas at the entrance to the **North Indian temple's garbhagriha, it would be usual to find images such as mithunas and the river goddesses, Ganga and Yamuna. Hence option 1 is correct and option 4 is not correct.**
- It is common to find a **large water reservoir, or a temple tank, enclosed within the complex. Hence option 3 is correct.**
- Subsidiary shrines are either incorporated within the main temple tower, or located as distinct, separate small shrines beside the main temple. **The North Indian idea of multiple shikharas rising together as a cluster was not popular in South India. Hence option 2 is not correct.**

Q 25.A

- Abul Fazl while writing in the Ain-i-Akbari speaks of fourteen silsilahs of the Sufis.
- These silsilahs were divided into two types: Ba-shara and Be-shara.
- **Ba-shara** were those orders that followed the Islamic Law (Sharia) and its directives such as namaz and roza. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Chief amongst these were the **Chishti, Suhrawardi, Firdawsi, Qadiri and Naqshbandi silsilahs**. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- The **be-shara silsilahs** were not bound by the Sharia. The **Qalandars** belonged to this group. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 26.B

- The architecture of the Mughals includes magnificent forts, palaces, public buildings, mosques and mausoleums. Large scale construction of buildings started with the advent of Akbar.
  - He built many forts and the most famous one was the **Agra Fort. It was built in red sandstone.**
  - **Akbar also built a palace cum- fort complex at Fatepur Sikri (City of Victory), 36 kilometres from Agra.** Many buildings in Gujarathi and Bengali styles are found in this complex.
  - The most magnificent building in it is the **Jama Masjid and the gateway to it is called Buland Darwaza** or the Lofty Gate. The height of the gateway is 176 feet. It was built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujarat. Other important buildings at Fatepur Sikri are **Jodh Bai's palace and Panch Mahal with five storeys. Hence options 1 and 4 are correct,**
- **Alauddin Khalji added an entrance to the Qutub Minar called Ala'i Darwaza.** The Ala'i Darwaza is the main gate from the southern side of the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque in the Qutub Minar complex. The dome of this arch was built on scientific lines. **Hence option 3 is not correct.**
- Mosque building had reached its peak during Shah Jahan's reign. **The Moti Masjid was built by Emperor Shah Jahan** at the highest point in the Agra Fort complex. **The Moti Masjid at Agra was built entirely in white marble. Hence option 2 is not correct.**

Q 27.B

- The Harappan people were aware of almost all the metals except iron. They manufactured gold and silver objects.
- A number of copper tools and weapons have also been discovered. The common tools included an axe, saws, chisels, knives, spearheads and arrowheads.
- Copper was brought mainly from Khetri in Rajasthan. Gold might have been obtained from the Himalayan riverbeds and South India, and silver from Mesopotamia.
- There is evidence of the use of the bronze though in a limited manner. **The most famous specimen in this regard is the bronze 'dancing girl' figurine discovered at Mohenjodaro. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is a nude female figure, with a right arm on the hip and left arm hanging in a dancing pose. She is wearing a large number of bangles.
- A large number of terracotta figurines of males and females have been discovered from various Harappan sites.
- **The female figurines outnumber those of males and are believed to represent the worship of the mother goddess.**
- Besides these, a variety of models of birds, monkeys, dogs, sheep, cattle, humped and humpless bulls are found.
- Pottery-making was also an important industry in the Harappan period. These were chiefly wheel-made and were treated with a red coating and had decorations in black.

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- The painted motifs, generally noticed on the pottery, are pipal leaves, fish-scale design, intersecting circles, zigzag lines, horizontal bands and geometrical motifs with **floral and faunal patterns. The Harappan pottery is well baked and fine in decorations. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Q 28.C

- **Recent context:** Recently the trilateral Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) was held in early August 2021 in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the level of Deputy National Security Advisors. **India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives are the full members of this National Security Advisor-(NSA) level platform.**
- During the recent conclave, member countries agreed to work on "four pillars" of security cooperation, covering areas of marine security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism, and cyber security, in a recent virtual meeting of top security officials of the three countries.
- The last National Security Advisor-(NSA) level talks among India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives were held in November 2020, where a decision was also made to change the name from "trilateral NSA meeting on maritime security" to the Colombo Security Conclave. **The Secretariat of Colombo Security Conclave is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.**
- **India is a full member** and the three observer countries (Bangladesh, Mauritius, and the Seychelles) will be elevated to full members at the next national security advisor-level meeting scheduled to take place in the Maldives later this year.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 29.B

- **Recent Context:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the country's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'. It is an indigenously developed toolkit and is **intended to be a vital tool in learning and understanding the practical aspects of programming using Quantum Computers.**
- Quantum computing is a rapidly emerging paradigm. Quantum computers can perform a variety of tasks with greater speed and efficiency than present-day digital computers by harnessing the power of Quantum Mechanics. In areas such as cryptography, computational chemistry and machine learning, Quantum computing promises exponential growth in computing power.
- **It is jointly developed by IIT-Roorkee, IISc Bangalore, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to address the common challenge of advancing the Quantum Computing research frontiers in India.** It will enable researchers and students to research Quantum Computing in a cost-effective manner. The project was supported & funded by MeitY.
- The toolkit will equip researchers to run quantum algorithms under conditions that will help them in making necessary arrangements for experiments to run on actual Quantum Hardware. **The toolkit will help attract researchers and students in the field of quantum technology. The toolkit creates a platform that helps students and users acquire the skills of 'programming' and 'designing' real Quantum Hardware.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 30.C

- Several Sanskrit texts collectively called **Sulvasutras** were written by the Vedic Hindus starting before 600 BC. They are written in **late Vedic Sanskrit.**
- **The Sulbasutras are appendices to the Vedas which give rules for constructing altars. Hence statement 1 is correct.** If the ritual sacrifice was to be successful then the altar had to conform to very precise measurements. All that is known of Vedic mathematics is contained in the Sulbasutras.
- Unique fire altar shapes were associated with unique gifts from the God. For example those desiring the heaven were to construct a fire altar in the shape of a 'falcon'.
- **There are four major Sulvasutras namely, Baudhayana, Manava, Apastamba and Katyayana with Baudhayana being the oldest.**
- Budhayana Sulbasutra are considered as the world's earliest systematic treatise on Geometrical Sciences. **Pythagoras Theorem is first stated by Budhayana. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Sulbas provides the requires spatial and directional parameters for constructing the altars while the time keeping calculations in the **Vedanga Jyotisha deicde the temporal paramters of the Yagna.**

Q 31.B

- **Recent Context: The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, was recently enacted by the Parliament.** It provides for the establishment of the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas as a statutory body. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- The monitoring and management of air quality in the Delhi-NCR so far was done by multiple bodies, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the state pollution control boards, the state governments in the region, including Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, and the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) of the National Capital Region. The Act seeks to create an overarching body to consolidate all monitoring bodies and to bring them on one platform so that air quality management can be carried out in a more comprehensive, efficient, and time-bound manner.
- **Apart from consolidating all agencies that monitored, investigated and planned mitigation of air pollution in the region, the Commission has replaced the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA). Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The new commission will concentrate on improving air quality particularly in winter, it has also been asked to suggest measures to mitigate pollution throughout the year.

Q 32.C

- Religion and rituals played an important role in Vedic society. In the Rig Veda, the natural forces sun, moon, rivers, mountains and rains were defined as divinities.
- **They were personified and looked at as living beings to whom people gave human or animal attributes. The religion was naturalistic and polytheistic. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Gods were arranged in hierarchical order with **Indra occupying the supreme position**. The next important God was **Agni.** Agni was seen as an intermediary between God and people.
- The third important God was Varuna. Varuna was the god of water. Soma was the god of plants and the drink was named after him. Soma drink was part of the ritual and the preparation of this intoxicating drink is explained in many hymns of Rig Veda. Maruts was the god of strength.
- **The dominant mode of worshipping God was through the recitation of prayers and offering sacrifices. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Both collective and individual prayers were made. Originally, every tribe or clan was the votary of a special God.
- **People did not worship Gods for spiritual upliftment or end of miseries of existence. They asked mainly for Praja (children), Pasu (cattle), food, wealth, health etc.**

Q 33.D

- In the Delhi Sultanate, the village was the smallest unit of administration.
- The functioning and administration of the village remained more or less the same as it had existed in pre Turkish times. **The main village functionaries were khut, Muqaddam and Patwari. Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**
- They worked in close coordination with the muqti in the collection of revenue and in maintaining law and order etc.
- A number of villages formed the Pargana. The important Pargana officials were Chaudhary, Amil (revenue collector) and Karkun (accountant).
- Village and pargana were independent units of administration, and yet there were inter related areas
- In certain cases the province had a local ruler (Rai, Rana, Rawat, Raja) who helped the governor in his duties. In such cases the local rulers were recognised as subordinates of the Sultan.

Q 34.D

- After the Pallavas, the Chola dynasty became the main power of Southern India and emerged victorious among other kingdoms. The capital of the Chola dynasty was the city of Thanjavur.
- Cholas had built more than two hundred temples which seems to be a continuation of previous Pallava architecture with some variations.
- These temples amply illustrate the style of architecture between the 8th to 12th century and its influence may also be seen on the architecture of temples of Ceylon and those of South-East Asian kingdoms like Sri Vijaya (Sumatra) and Chavakam (Java).
- Chola temples can be categorized into two groups – Early Temples and Later Temples; early temples are influenced by Pallava architecture while later have Chalukya influence.
- The important example of the early group is the Vijayalaya temple while the latter group represents the Brihadeeswara temple of Thanjavur.
- **Brihadeeshwara Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva, located in Thanjavur in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is also known as Raja Rajeswara Temple.**
- **It is one of the largest temples in India and is the finest example of Dravidian architecture during the Chola period. It was built by emperor Raja Raja Chola I.**

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- **The temple is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Great Living Chola Temples".**
- **The Airavatesvara temple at Darasuram was built by the great Chola king Rajaraja II.**
- Despite being a smaller temple, the Airavatesvara temple holds sculptural masterpieces that make it stand separately, exemplifying the great heights achieved in the field of art, sculpture, and architecture, during the Chola reign.
- **The Papanatha Temple was built during the 8th Century in the Early Chalukya period. It is part of Pattadakal group of monuments which is a UNESCO world heritage site. This temple has features of both Dravida and Nagara styles.**
- Pattadakal monuments in Karnataka, represent a high point of an eclectic art which, in the 7th and 8th centuries under the Chalukya dynasty, achieved a harmonious blend of architectural forms from northern and southern India. An impressive series of nine Hindu temples, as well as a Jain sanctuary, can be seen there. Famous temple Virupaksha is part of this group.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 35.C

- Jainism has been preached by a succession of twenty-four propagators of faith known as Tirthankara.
- Tirthankara is a human being who helps in achieving liberation and enlightenment by overcoming and eliminating all constraints over soul and became a role model and leader for those seeking spiritual guidance.
- There are 24 Tīrthaṅkaras and each of them revitalized the Jain Order.
- **Jain sects**
  - Jainism developed two major divisions:
    - Digambara (sky clad ascetics)
    - Svetambara (white robed ascetics)
  - The other sects with a sizable population are Sthanakavasi and Terapanthi.
  - Both communities have developed almost independently of each other. Except for some minor differences in rituals and way of life, their belief and practices for spiritual progress are the same.
- **The Digambaras, like Mahavira, practice total nudity to avoid all attachments**. The Shvetambaras reject nudity as an exterior symbol having no significance on their inner spiritual development. **According to the Shvetambaras, on the other hand, wearing or not wearing clothes was optional.** Moreover, Shvetambaras prefer white robes and they view nudity as a practice that had fallen into abeyance and not necessary. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Shvetambaras accepted women into the monastic community early on, unlike the Digambaras.** As per religious textbooks of Shvetambaras, Malli, the 19th Tirthankara, was a woman. **However, it has been denied by Digambara traditions which holds that a woman has to be reborn as a man before she can attain salvation. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Q 36.C

- **Recent Context:** Recently the government notified Guidelines and Rates under the Remissions of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme. **The scheme aims to boost exports & competitiveness in the global markets.**
- **Through the scheme (RoDTEP), exporters will be compensated for the non-creditable duty/tax costs (such as Electricity Tax, Stamp duty, Mandi Fee, Tax on fuel, etc.) that are embedded in the export goods.** The new remission rates announced under the scheme envisage that the exporters will be compensated the embedded taxes, which were not recoverable (or refunded) and inbuilt in the price of the export commodity, leading to intense competition in the international market. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Exporters from the pharma, steel and chemical industries, export-oriented units (including bio-technology parks and electronic hardware technology park)**, Special Economic Zones (SEZ)**, free trade warehousing zone and custom bonded warehouses operating under the Manufacturing and Other Operations in Warehousing Regulations **are kept outside the scope of the new scheme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **RoDTEP seeks to replace the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)** which was devised to incentivise exporters in offsetting infrastructural inefficiencies and the associated costs. It was considered a subsidy and pronounced as a violation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, by its Dispute Settlement Body in 2019.

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Q 37.B

- The Mauryan Empire had an efficient and centralized administrative system. The chief source of information regarding administration under the Mauryan Empire is Chanakya's work, Arthashastra. Megasthenes also gives some information in his book Indika.
- Revenue in the Mauryan Empire was collected on land, irrigation, shops, customs, forests, ferries, mines, and pastures. License fees were collected from artisans and fines were charged in the law courts. The Mauryas attached greater importance to assessment than to storage and depositing.
- The ***samaharta*** was the **highest executive official in charge of assessment** and the ***sannidhata*** was the chief custodian of the state treasury and storehouse.
- The Head of the food grains department was known as the **Annapala.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 38.B

- **Satavahanas**
  - **In the Deccan and in central India**, the **Satavahanas succeeded the Mauryas** although a gap of 100 years. The Satavahanas are considered to be identical with the Andharas who are mentioned in the Puranas.
  - **Yajna Sri Satakarni (A.D. 165-194)**, was a lover of trade and navigation. His coins have been found not only in Andhra but also in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. His love for navigation and overseas trade is shown by the representation of a ship on his coins.
  - In the Satavahana phase, many **chaityas (sacred shrines)** and monasteries were cut out of the solid rock in the north-western Deccan or Maharashtra with great skill. The most famous chaitya is that of **Karle in the western Deccan**. It is about 40 metres long, 15 metres wide and 15 metres high.
  - The **Viharas or monasteries** were excavated near the chaityas for the residence of monks in the rainy season. **In Nashik, there are three Viharas**. Since they carry the **inscriptions of Nahapana and Gautamiputra**, it seems that they belong to the first-second centuries A.D.
  - The **official language** of the Satavahanas **was Prakrit.** All inscriptions were composed in this language and written in the Brahmi script as was the case in Ashokan times. One Prakrit text called Gathasattasai or the **Gathasaptasati is attributed to a Satavahana king called Hala.**
- **Economic Condition**
  - There was remarkable progress in the fields of trade and industry during the Satavahana rule. Merchants organized guilds to increase their activities. The craft guilds organized by different craftsmen such as potters, weavers and oil pressers also came into existence. **Silver coins called Karshapanas were used for trade.**
  - The Satavahana period also witnessed overseas commercial activity. Ptolemy mentions many ports in the Deccan. The **greatest port of the Satavahanas was Kalyani on the western Deccan**. **Gandakasela and Ganjam on the east coast were the other important seaports.**
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 39.C

- **Recently, Natesa, a 9th century's rare sandstone idol of Rajasthan temple smuggled out of country in 1998 returned to India**. Natesa is a rare sandstone idol from the **Pratihara Style of architecture in Rajasthan.**
- It is originally from the Ghateswar Temple at Baroli, Rajasthan. The sandstone Natesa figure stands tall at almost 4 ft in a rare and brilliant depiction of Shiva.
- **Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty ruled much of Northern India from the mid-8th to the 11th century. They were one of the first four patrilineal clans of the caste group referred to as the Rajputs. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The expansion of the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom involved constant conflicts with other contemporary powers **such as the Palas and the Rashtrakutas known as the tripartite struggle for Kanauj. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- They retained terms of **administration, on line of the Gupta Empire's and Harshvardhana's ideas. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Some areas were administered directly by the centre and some were divided into provinces (bhukti) and districts (mandala or vishaya), respectively, governed by a governor (uparika) and a district head (vishayapati).
- Governor and district heads were tasked with collecting land revenue and maintaining law and order with the help of the army units stationed in their areas.

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Q 40.B

- **Ashvaghosha:**
  - Ashvaghosha was a Mahayana scholar and poet who lived from the first through the second century. Originally a follower and scholar of Brahmanism, he converted to Buddhism. He was reputed to be an outstanding poet, an excellent composer of music, and an author of literary works. He propagated Buddhism in northern India under the patronage of **Kushan King Kanishka**. He wrote epics such as Buddhacharita and Saundarananda.
    - > **Buddhacharita** recounts the Buddha's life and is considered a masterpiece of Indian literature.
    - > **Saundarananda** is the story of Nanda, a cousin of the Buddha, who severed his relationship with his beloved and beautiful wife and became a monk.
  - The **Awakening of Faith in the Mahayana is attributed to Ashvaghosha**, who is regarded as the eleventh of Shakyamuni's twenty-three, or the twelfth of his twenty-four, successors. Some accounts, however, attribute it to another person of the same name or to others.
  - The Milinda Pañha is a Buddhist text which dates from sometime between 100 BC and 200 AD. It purports to record a dialogue between the Buddhist sage Nāgasena, and the Indo-Greek king Menander I (Pali: Milinda) of Bactria, who reigned in the 2nd century BC.
  - **Menander (165-145 B.C.)** is the most famous Indo-Greek ruler. He is also known by the name **Milinda**. He had his **capital at Sakala (modern Sialkot)** in Punjab. He was **converted to Buddhism by Nagasena**, who is also known as Nagarjuna. Meander asked Nagasena many questions relating to Buddhism. These questions and Nagasena's answers were recorded in the form of a book known as Milinda Panho or the Question of Milinda. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 41.C

- The Rig Vedas speak about not only the Aryans but also about the non-Aryan people, whom the Aryans encountered in India. When the Rig Vedic people moved into India they came into conflict with people whom they referred to as Dasyus or Dasas.
- **The Aryans were engaged in two types of conflicts: first, they fought with Pre-Aryans and secondly they fought amongst themselves. Hence option (a) is correct.**
- The Bharatas and Tritsu were the ruling Aryan Clans. The Bharata ruling clan was opposed by a host of ten kings, five of whom were heads of Aryan tribes and the remaining five of non-Aryan people. **It was known as the battle of ten kings.**
- Archaeological evidence points to the development of agriculture among the Rig Vedic people. The ploughshare is mentioned in the Rig Vedas.
- The field was known as a kshetra and the term Krishi referred to ploughing.
- **They had knowledge of different seasons, sowing, harvesting, and thrashing. They cultivated barley (yavam) and wheat (godhuma). Hence option (b) is correct.**
- The dasas and dasyus were conquered by the Aryans and treated as slaves and Sudras.

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- Slaves were given as gifts to priests. They were mainly women employed for domestic purposes. **However, it is clear that in Rig Vedic times slaves were not used directly in agriculture or other producing activities. Hence option (c) is not correct.**
- There are so many references of Cows in Rig Veda since the Rig Vedic people were pastoral people. **Most of their wars were fought for the sake of cows. The term for war in Rig Veda is gavisthi or search of cows. Hence option (d) is correct.**

Q 42.B

- The Sanchi Stupa is one of India's primary Buddhist sites and contains some of the oldest stone structures in the country. **Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989, the Sanchi Stupa is living proof of India's artistic and architectural history.** The iconic depictions of Buddha (as the Bodhi tree, a rider-less horse, an empty throne, etc.) at Sanchi are products of Graeco-Buddhist architectural interaction.
- **Stupa-1 at Sanchi has upper as well as lower pradakshinapatha or circumambulatory path. It has four beautifully decorated toranas depicting various events from the life of the Buddha and the Jataka. Figure compositions are in high relief, filling up the entire space.**
- At Sanchi Stupa-1, narratives get more elaborated; however, the depiction of the dream episode remains very simple showing the reclining image of the queen and the elephant at the top. **The historical narratives such as the siege of Kushinara, Buddha's visit to Kapilavastu, visit of Ashoka to the Ramgrama Stupa are carved with considerable details.**
- **Additional Information**
  - **Chaukhandi Stupa:** Tracing its history from the 5th-century AD, Chaukhandi Stupa is one of the most important Buddhist religious centres in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh.
    - The Chaukhandi Stupa is thought originally to have been built as a terraced temple during the Gupta period between the 4th and 6th centuries to mark the site where Buddha and his first disciples met travelling from Bodh Gaya to Sarnath.
    - Later Govardhan, the son of a Raja Todar Mal, modified the stupa to its present shape by building the octagonal tower to commemorate the visit of Humayun, the powerful Mughal ruler.
    - Marking the spot where Lord Buddha met five ascetics, Chaukhandi Stupa is said to have developed from a centuries-old burial mound.
  - **Bharhut stupa:** The Bharhut stupa may have been first built by the Maurya king Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE, but many works of art, particularly the gateway and railings, were apparently added during the Shunga period, with many reliefs from the 2nd century BCE, or later.
    - Alternatively, the sculptures made have been added during the reign of the Sughanas, a northern Buddhist kingdom.
    - The Bharhut stupa represents the aniconic phase of Buddhist art. Buddha has been represented in the form of symbols.
    - The style is generally flat, with low bass relief, and all characters are depicted wearing the Indian dhoti, except for one foreigner, thought to be an Indo-Greek soldier, with Buddhist symbolism.
  - **Dhamek Stupa:** Dhamek Stupa is one of the most famous and Buddhist stupas located in Sarnath near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, India.
    - Originally built in 249 BCE during the reign of King Ashoka of the Maurya Dynasty, this massive and prominent structure has over time gone through several expansions and additions.
    - This solid cylindrical shaped Stupa made of red bricks and stone in its present position stands at a height of 43.6 m with a diameter of 28 m.
    - The significance of this sacred place is that it marks the spot where Lord Buddha preached the first sermon to His five disciples after attaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 43.D

- **Deccan sultanates were systematically recruiting the Habshis as slaves in the 16th century.** Habshis was a term used to refer to members of various ethnic communities from the **Abyssinian highlands. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- They were highly valued for their physical strength and loyalty and were frequently put to military service.
- The 14th-century **Medieval Moroccan scholar and traveler Ibn Battuta** in his writings mention that the Habshis were "**guarantors of safety"** for ships traveling in the Indian Ocean. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- He notes that the slaves had such a reputation that even if one was on board, the ship would be avoided by pirates.

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- In Deccan society, **the slaves did not have a permanent status**. Upon the death of their masters, they were usually "**set free"** and served as per their free will in service of powerful commanders in the Empire.
- **Malik Ambar**
- He was an **African slave turned warrior who founded the city 'Aurangabad'**. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Born in 1548 in southern Ethiopia's Khambata region, Ambar is believed to have been associated with the **Oromo tribe.**
- Ambar was amongst one of a thousand other 'Habshi' (a term used to refer to members of various ethnic communities from the Abyssinian highlands) purchased by **Chengiz Khan** when fate brought him to the Deccan.

Q 44.A

- The present certification of films is governed by the **1952 Cinematograph Act**, the **Cinematograph (Certification) Rules** promulgated in 1983 and the Guidelines issued thereunder from time to time, the latest having been issued on December 6, 1991.
- The Cinematograph Act, 1952, apart from including provisions relating to the Constitution and functioning of the Central Board of Film Certification, also lays down the guidelines to be followed by certifying films.
- Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a **statutory body** under **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952. **Hence statement 1 is correct**.
- The Board consists of **non-official members and a Chairman**, all of whom are appointed by **Central Government,** and functions with headquarters at Mumbai. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- It has **nine Regional offices**, one each at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack and Guwahati.
- The Regional Offices are assisted in the examination of films by Advisory Panels.
- The members of the panels are nominated by Central Government by drawing people from different walks of life for a period of 2 years.

Q 45.D

- **Recent Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the Platform for Regulated Entities for Integrated Supervision and Monitoring (PRISM), a web-based end-to-end work flow automation system, to strengthen compliance by supervised entities.**
- This is to strengthen RBI's 'continuous supervision', which according to the central bank is its new approach for early identification of risks and conduct of supervisory actions. PRISM will also help supervised entities to strengthen their internal defences and resilience and bringing focus on root cause analysis (RCA).
- PRISM will have various functionalities (inspection; compliance; incident functionality for cyber security; complaints; and returns functionalities), with built-in remediation workflows, time tracking, notifications and alerts, management information system (MIS) reports and dashboards.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 46.D

- **Bhaskaracharya** is also known as Bhaskara and was born in 1114 AD at Bijapur. He was an Indian astronomer and mathematician and has **written the famous book Siddhanta Siromani.** He has also acknowledged that any number divided by zero is infinity and the sum of any number and infinity is also infinity his works represent a significant contribution to mathematical and astronomical knowledge. **He is known as the greatest mathematician of medieval India.** There is strong evidence to suggest that Bhaskar was a pioneer in the principle of differential calculus. He was the first to conceive the differential proficient and differential calculus.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 47.D

- The prosperity of the Harappan civilization was based on its flourishing economic activities such as agriculture. The availability of **fertile Indus alluvium** contributed to the surplus in agricultural production.
- Agriculture along with pastoralism (cattle-rearing) was the base of the Harappan economy. **The granaries discovered at sites like Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Lothal served as the storehouses for grains.**

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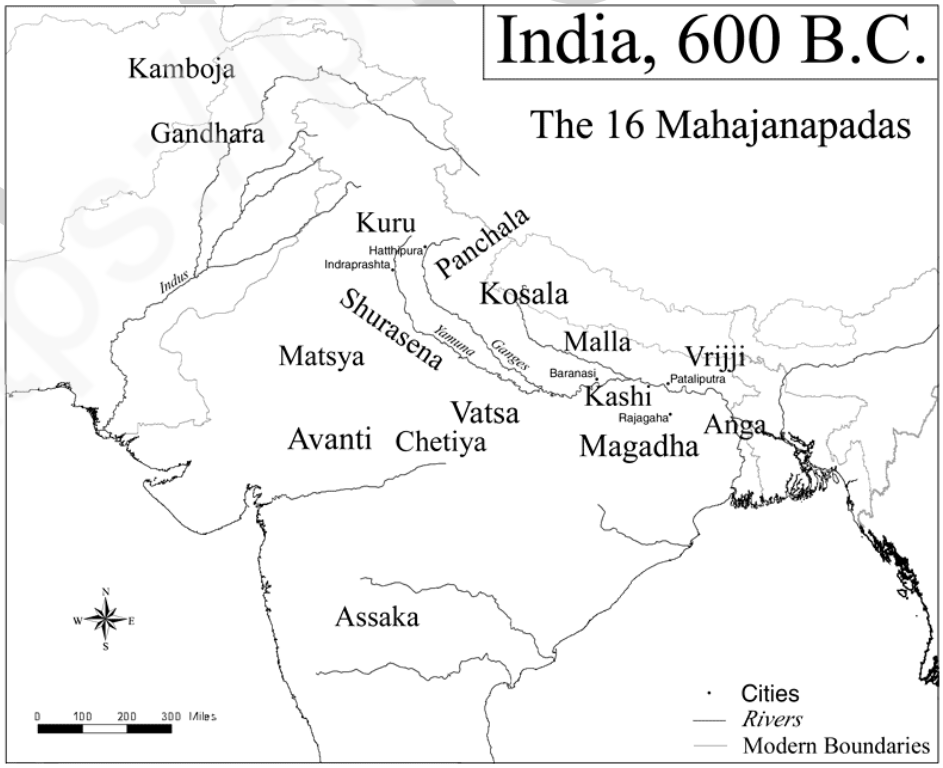
- Archaeologists have also found evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan (Rajasthan), associated with Early Harappan levels. **The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, showing that two different crops were grown together. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Representations on seals and terracotta sculpture indicate that the bull was known, and archaeologists extrapolate from this that oxen were used for ploughing.
- Moreover, **terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana). Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The irrigation was carried on a small scale by **drawing water from wells or by diverting river water into channels.**
- Most Harappan sites are located in semi-arid lands, where irrigation was probably required for agriculture. Traces of canals have been found at the Harappan site of Shortughai in Afghanistan.
- Besides, **water reservoirs found in Dholavira (Gujarat) have been used to store water for agriculture. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indus people produced **wheat, barley, rai and peas, sesamum and mustard**. They produced two types of Wheat and Barley. Foodgrains were stored in large granaries found in Harappa and Mohenjodaro.
- **The Indus people were the earliest to produce cotton**. Because cotton was produced in this area, Greeks called it Sindon, which is derived from Sindh.

Q 48.C

- The Kingdom of **Koshala was an ancient Indian kingdom, corresponding to the area with the region of Awadh in present-day Uttar Pradesh.** Kosala belonged to the Northern Black Polished Ware culture and the Kosala region gave rise to the Sramana movements, including Jainism and Buddhism. It was culturally distinct from the Painted Grey Ware culture of the Vedic period of Kuru-Panchala west of it, following independent development toward urbanization and the use of iron. According to the Buddhist text Anguttara Nikaya and the Jaina text, the Bhagavati Sutra, Kosala was one of the **Solasa (sixteen) Mahajanapadas (**powerful realms) in the 6th to 5th centuries BCE. **The Mahajanpad contained an important city called Ayodhya, associated with the story of Ramayana. Hence option (c) is the correct answer**
- **Vatsa** was one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas of Uttarapatha of ancient India mentioned in the Anguttara Nikaya. Vatsa country corresponded with the territory of modern Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers.
- **Avanti** was an ancient Indian Mahajanapada that roughly corresponded to the present-day Malwa region. The capital of Avanti was located at Ujjaini or Mahismati.
- **Kashi was one of the Mahajanapada during ancient India.** Today it is a part of modern Banaras district which includes the part of Jaunpur, Ghazipur, and Mirzapur district. Kashi Janapada was engaged in continuous warfare with its neighboring countries like Kosala Janapada.



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Q 49.A

- The Buddha's teachings have been reconstructed from stories, found mainly in the **Sutta Pitaka.** Buddha tried to convince people through reason and persuasion rather than through displays of supernatural power.
- According to Buddhist philosophy, **the world is transient (anicca)** and constantly changing; it is also **soulless (anatta)** as there is nothing permanent or eternal in it. Within this transient world, **sorrow (dukkha)** is intrinsic to human existence. It is by following the path of moderation between severe penance and self-indulgence that human beings can rise above these worldly troubles. In the earliest forms of Buddhism, whether or not god existed was irrelevant. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
- The Buddha regarded the social world as the creation of humans rather than of divine origin. Therefore, he advised kings and gahapatis to be humane and ethical.

Q 50.B

- **Sultanganj Buddha image:**
  - The Sultanganj Buddha is a Gupta-Pala transitional period sculpture. It is 2.3 m high and 1 m wide and weighs over 500 kg. It was found in the **Sultanganj, Bhagalpur district, Bihar.** It was sculpted using the **techniques of 'lost wax'. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It is now in the **Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery,** Birmingham, England. The Sultanganj Buddha is the **largest known complete Indian bronze sculpture. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - The sculpture of Sultanganj Buddha is **in a standing pose/asa**na and is designed to focus the mind of the viewer. He has a tuft of hair or third eye between his eyebrows (represented by the urna) which symbolizes spiritual insight and a bump on the top of his head known as the ushnisha, which symbolised wisdom and spirituality and his attainment of enlightenment.
  - The sculpture has **a smooth, highly polished dark surface** and the eyes are downcast, Curved contour lines inscribed on his torso and limbs suggest a thin layer of clothing, rather than a nude form, beneath the strong vertical cloak that clings to and frames the lower half of the figure's body before spreading out in
  - His **right hand is in Abhaya Mudra which means 'no fear'** and hence shows the Buddha giving reassurance and protection to his followers and his **left hand is held downwards with palm outwards**, said to indicate granting a favor. The end of the monastic robe is held between the thumb and forefinger of this hand in the manner that is still practiced by Theravadin monks. Buddha image at Sultanganj is an outstanding **example of Sarnath-style bronzes image that have foldless drapery. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 51.A

- **Economic Condition during Gupta period: Agriculture and Agrarian Structure**
  - Agriculture flourished in the Gupta period due to the establishment of irrigation works. Apart from the state and individual cultivators, Brahmins, Buddhists, and Jain sanghas brought waste lands under cultivation when they were donated to them as religious endowments.
  - Likewise, crops and fields were fenced. The crops cultivated during the Gupta period were rice, wheat, barley, peas, lentils, pulses, sugarcane, and oilseeds. From **Kalidasa**, we come to know that the south was famous for pepper and cardamom.
  - **Varahamihira** gives elaborate advice on the plantation of fruit trees.
  - The **Paharpur copper plate inscription** indicates that the king was the sole proprietor of the land. Even when he made land grants, he reserved his prerogatives over it. As stated in Paharpur plates, an officer called **ustapala maintained records** of all the land transactions in the district and the village accountant preserved records of land in the village. During the Gupta period, the land was classified as detailed below.
    - Kshetra: Cultivatable land
    - **Khila: Wasteland**
    - Aprahata: Jungle or wasteland
    - **Vasti: Habitable land**
    - **Gapata Saraha: Pastoral land**
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 52.A

- The temple building activity gained momentum during the Vijayanagar rule. **The chief characteristics of the Vijayanagara architecture were the construction of tall Raya Gopurams or gateways.** These structures of immense scale had been a mark of imperial authority. The Raya gopurams or royal gateways

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often dwarfed the towers on the central shrines and signalled the presence of the temple from a great distance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Other distinctive **features include Kalyanamandapam with carved pillars** and long, pillared corridors that often ran around the shrines within the temple complex. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The sculptures on the pillars were carved with distinctive features. The horse was the most common animal found in these pillars. Large mandapams contain one hundred pillars as well as one thousand pillars in some big temples. These mandapams were used for seating the deity on festival occasions. Also, many Amman shrines were added to the already existing temples during this period. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 53.B

- Tinais were physiographic divisions or micro eco-zones of the ancient Tamizakhan. Sangam literature gives details about this "Tinai" system.
- The **aintinais or five tinais/eco-zones are referred to in the Tolkapiyyam:** one of the earliest Tamil texts to have survived till the present.
- The subsistence pattern of each tinai was different.
- The five tinais are:
  - kurinji or hilly terrain,
  - mullai or pastures and woodlands,
  - palai or arid stretches,
  - neytal or the littorals (zones near the sea), and
  - marudam or agricultural tracts in river valleys or plains.
- **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- Each tinai tract supported a specific type of economic activity according to soil type, climate, rainfall and the availability of other resources. **Each had a specific deity as well as a particular flower or tree associated with it.** Each tinai tract was also named after a plant that was exclusive to it. The boundaries of any tinai tract cannot be distinctly demarcated since one merges with the other. Hence, each tinai tract should not be thought of as a rigid bounded entity with minimal or no external relations. **Hence statement 2 is correct**
- **Kurinji was inhabited by the hunting tribes such as vedar, parayar, vettuvar, katampar and kuravar groups.** The kuravar women were known for predicting the future and for their medical knowledge. The tribes followed a matriarchal system. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

Q 54.B

- **Therukoothu** is the most popular form of folk drama of **Tamil Nadu.** Therukoothu literally means "street play". It is mostly performed at the time of **annual temple festivals of Mariamman (Rain goddess)** to achieve rich harvest. At the core of the extensive repertoire of Therukoothu there is a cycle of eight plays based on the life of **Draupadi**. Kattiakaran, the Sutradhara of the Therukoothu performance, gives the gist of the play to the audience and Komali entertains the audience with his buffoonery. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **Additional Information:**

Theatre form	**State/Region**
Yakshagana	Karnataka
Mudiyettu, Krishnattam, Koodiyattam	Kerala
Dashavatar	Konkar and Goa region
Tamasha	Maharashtra
Bhaona	Assam
Maach	Madhya Pradesh
Bhavai	Gujarat
Bhand Panther	Jammu and Kashmir

Q 55.B

- **Bhavai** is the traditional theatre form of **Gujarat**. The centers of this form are Kutch and Kathiawar.
  - The instruments used in Bhavai are: bhungal, tabla, flute, pakhaawaj, rabaab, sarangi, manjeera, etc. In Bhavai, there is a rare synthesis of devotional and romantic sentiments. **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Bhaona** is a folk theatre of **Assam**, especially of Majuli Island.

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- In Bhaona cultural glimpses of Assam, Bengal Orissa, Mathura and Brindavan can be seen. The Sutradhaar, or narrator begins the story, first in Sanskrit and then in either Brajboli or Assamese. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- **Mudiyettu** is a traditional folk theatre form of **Kerala** is celebrated in the month of Vrischikam (November-December).
  - It is usually performed only in the Kali temples of Kerala, as an oblation to the Goddess. It depicts the triumph of goddess Bhadrakali over the asura Darika.
  - The seven characters in Mudiyettu-Shiva, Narada, Darika, Danavendra, Bhadrakali, Kooli and Koimbidar (Nandikeshvara) are all heavily made-up. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Q 56.D

- Belan river, a **tributary of the Tons and sub-tributary of the Ganga**. Located between the Vindhyan ridges – northernmost outliers of the Vindhyas in the north, and Kaimur range in the south.
- The Belan, together with its tributaries - Adwa, Seoti, Lohanda Nala, Tundiari, Gorma and Naina, drains about 7,800 sq km area in the Northern Vindhyas.
- It is located in the **Indian state of Uttar Pradesh** encompassing parts of **Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Allahabad and Mirzapur Districts of Uttar Pradesh. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Mesolithic remains in the valley were first discovered as early as 1867-68 by **A.C.L. Carlleyle.** He collected microliths from the floors of rock shelters as well as from the open ground in front of the shelters.
- **Animal remains have also been found in the Belan Valley in Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh show that goats, sheep and cattle were domesticated around 25,000BC. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- During prehistoric times, the Belan sites contain caves and rock shelters which would have served as seasonal camps for human beings.
- In the northern spurs of the Vindhyas in the Belan Valley, **all three phases of the Palaeolithic followed by the Mesolithic and then by the Neolithic have been found in the sequence. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Q 57.D

- **Trade in the subcontinent and beyond**:
  - From the sixth century BCE, land and river routes crisscrossed the subcontinent and extended in various directions – overland into Central Asia and beyond, and overseas, from ports that dotted the coastline – extending across the Arabian Sea to East and North Africa and West Asia, and through the Bay of Bengal to Southeast Asia and China. Rulers often attempted to control these routes, possibly by offering protection for a price. Those who traversed these routes included peddlers who probably traveled on foot and merchants who traveled with caravans of bullock carts and pack-animals. Also, there were seafarers, whose ventures were risky but highly profitable.
  - **Successful merchants, designated as masattuvan in Tamil and setthis and satthavahas in Prakrit, could become enormously rich.** A wide range of goods was carried from one place to another – salt, grain, cloth, metal ores and finished products, stone, timber, medicinal plants, to name a few. Spices, especially pepper, were in high demand in the Roman Empire, as were textiles and medicinal plants, and these were all transported across the Arabian Sea to the Mediterranean. **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 58.A

- **The Chhau dance of Eastern India,** Orissa, Jharkhand, and West Bengal – is a blend of **martial traditions**, temple rituals, and folk and popular performance of this region. episodes from the epics **Mahabharata, Ramayana, Puranas**, traditional folklore, local legends and abstract themes through the medium of dance and a music ensemble that consists primarily of indigenous drums. The Chhau dance was inscribed in the **UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** of Humanity. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
  - In its traditional context, the dance is intimately connected with the festivals and rituals of this region. Important among these is the Chaitra Parva celebrated in the month of April. The **month of Chaitra** celebrates the advent of spring and the start of the harvesting season.
  - **Though vocal music is not used in Chhau**, the melodies are based on songs from the Jhumur folk repertoire, the devotional Kirtan, classical Hindustani 'ragas', and traditional Oriya sources. Dhol, Dhumsa, Nagada,Shehnai, Chadchadi and Jhanj provide accompaniment to Chhau dance.
- **Kalbelia dance is a folk dance of Rajasthan state.** It is well known by other names like 'Sapera Dance' or 'Snake Charmer Dance'.

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- Kalbelia dance is particularly performed by a Rajasthani tribe called 'Kalbelia'.
- In Kalbelia dance generally males play various traditional instruments like khanjari and poongi and females perform the dance.
- **In 2010, the Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan were declared a part of its Intangible Heritage List by the UNESCO.**
- Kalbelia songs disseminate mythological knowledge through stories, while special traditional dances are performed during Holi.

- **Firkal dance - It is a martial tribal dance of the Bhumij tribe (Jharkand)**. It depicts the heroics of a war and how warriors saved their clan and homeland. The dance is performed by male members of the tribe to show their valour during hunting wild animals. It also serves to arouse a sense of male valour in others.
  - Traditionally the place for learning and practising Firkal was a local cremation ground. Firkal was learnt and practised at cremation grounds because it is a show of valour and we feel that the blessing of ancestors is necessary for this.
  - It was practised only once a year during the month before Sankranti festival from December 14 to January 14.
- **Pandav Nritya:** It is a ritual re-enactment of stories from the Hindu epic Mahabharata, through singing, dancing and recitation, that **is practised in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.**
  - Village amateurs take on the roles of Pandavas and perform the act outdoors, accompanied by the folk instruments dhol, damau and two long trumpets called bhankore.
  - Performances can last anywhere from three days to a month in different villages. On the last day of Pandava Nritya, a grand feast is organized for the villagers.

Q 59.B

- **The Treaty of Purandar was signed between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Raja Jai Singh (on behalf of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb). The treaty was signed on 11th June 1665. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb had sent Raja Jai Singh to fight against Shivaji. Jai Singh captured several forts of Shivaji and compelled him to sign the treaty. The terms of the treaty were
    - Out of 35 forts held by Shivaji, 23 forts with the surrounding territory which yielded a revenue of four lakhs of huns every year were to be surrendered to the Mughals, while the remaining 12 forts with an annual income of one lakh of huns were to be left to Shivaji 'on condition -of service and loyalty to the throne. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - Territory worth four lakhs of huns a year in the Bijapuri Konkan, which Shivaji had already held, was granted to him. In addition, Bijapur territory worth five lakhs of huns a year in the uplands (Balaghat), which Shivaji was to conquer, was also granted to him. In return for these, he was to pay 40 lakhs huns in installments to the Mughals.
    - Shivaji asked to be excused from personal service. Hence, a mansab of 5000 was granted in his place to his minor son, Sambhaji. Shivaji promised, however, to join personally in any Mughal campaign in the Deccan.
- **In 1674, Shivaji crowned himself formally as Chhatrapati at Raigarh.**
  - By this time Shivaji had traveled far from being a petty jagirdar at Poona. He was by then the most powerful among the Maratha chiefs.
- **In 1666, Shivaji received a letter from Emperor Aurangzeb inviting him to come to the royal court at Agra. Shivaji had a hunch about the Emperor's intentions but accepted the invitation at Jai Singh's request.**
  - If Shivaji and Aurangzeb could be reconciled, Jai Singh thought, Aurangzeb might be persuaded to give greater resources for a renewed invasion of the Bijapur Kingdom.
  - Shivaji arrived in Agra with his eldest son, Shambhuji, and a small contingent of soldiers on May 12, 1666, Aurangzeb's 50th birthday.

Q 60.B

- Mansabdari was a **unique system devised by the Mughals in India.**
- The mansabdari system, evolved by Akbar with certain changes and modifications, was the basis of civil and military administrations under the Mughals.
- The word mansab means a **place or position.**
- The mansab awarded to an individual **fixed both his status in the official hierarchy and also his salary. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It also fixed the number of armed retainers the holders of mansab was to maintain.

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- The system was formulated to streamline rank of the nobles, fix their salary and specify the number of cavalry to be maintained by them.
- Later the rank of mansabdar came to be denoted by two numbers - Zat and-Sawar.
- The **Zat denoted personal rank of an official and the Sawar indicated the size of contingents maintained by the mansabdars. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Sawar rank was either equal or less than the Zat.
- Jahangir introduced a new provision in the Sawar rank. According to it a part of **Sawar rank was termed du-aspa sih-aspa in case of select mansabdars.** For this part additional payment at the same rate 8,000 dams per Sawar was sanctioned. Thus the mansabdar was to maintain double number of Sawars for the du-aspa sih-aspa category and was paid for it. Jahangir probably introduced this provision to promote nobles of his confidence and strengthen them militarily. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 61.B

- Samudragupta was the greatest of the rulers of the Gupta dynasty. The Allahabad Pillar inscription provides a detailed account of his reign. **He was the opposite of Ashoka. Unlike Ashoka, he delighted in violence and conquest. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Samudragupta marched against the South Indian monarchs. The Allahabad Pillar inscription mentions that Samudragupta defeated twelve rulers in his South Indian Expedition (Dakshinapatha expedition). He did not destroy and annex those kingdoms. Instead, he defeated the rulers but gave them back their kingdoms. He only insisted on them to acknowledge his suzerainty. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **He was also a patron of many poets and scholars, one of whom was Harisena.** Thus he must be credited with a share in the promotion of Sanskrit literature and learning, characteristic of his dynasty. **Kalidasa is a court poet of Chandragupta II. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 62.C

- **Madhubani Art** also known as **Mithila painting** is a style of Indian painting, practiced in the **Mithila region of Bihar.** Women decorate the nuptial chamber and the inner walls of their homes to celebrate festivals. Among other themes that are painted are episodes from the Bhagvata Purana, Ramayana, stories of Shiva-Parvati, Durga, Kali and Rasa-Lila of Radha and Krishna. Mithila artists do not like empty spaces. They fill in the entire space decoratively with elements from nature like birds, flowers, animals, fish, snakes, the Sun and the moon, which often have symbolic intent, signifying love, passion, fertility, eternity, well-being and prosperity. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The **Sohrai Khovar painting** is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area of **Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.** They are traditionally painted on the walls of mud houses. The style features a profusion of lines, dots, animal figures and plants, often representing religious iconography. **Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Cheriyal Scroll Painting** is a modified version of **Nakashi art**, considered highly rich in the local motifs. The Nakashis are the artists of Telangana and the scrolls constitute a key element of the social and cultural setting of **Telangana**. These paintings were mostly confined to **Cheriyal village**, and hence called Cheriyal scrolls. These scrolls are painted in narrative format similar to a film roll or even comic strips, and depict stories from the Indian mythology as well as the shorter stories related to the Puranas and Epics. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.** The above three paintings were given the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai.

Q 63.C

- **The Vijayanagara kingdom was founded by Harihara and Bukka who belonged to the dynasty called Sangama**. According to a legend, they had been the feudatories of the Kakatiyas of Warangal and later became ministers in the kingdom of Kampili in modern Karnataka. The date of Harihara's coronation is placed at 1336.
- There was confusion in the Vijayanagara Empire after the death of Deva Raya II in 1446. Since the rule of primogeniture was not established in Vijayanagara, there were a series of civil wars among the various contenders to the throne. Many feudatories assumed independence in the process. The ministers became very powerful and began to exact presents and heavy taxes from the people, causing considerable distress to them
- **The rulers were sunk in pleasures and neglected the affairs of the state. After some time, the throne was usurped by the king's minister, Saluva. The earlier dynasty Sangama, thus, came to an end giving rise to the Saluva dynasty.**

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- **Later Saluva dynasty too came to an end and a new dynasty called the Tuluva dynasty ruled the Vijayanagar Empire. Sri Krishna Deva Raya was the greatest ruler of this dynasty.**
  - Sri Krishna Deva Raya not only re-established internal law and order in Vijayanagara Empire but he had also dealt with the old rivals of Vijayanagara, viz., the successor states of the Bahmani kingdom and the state of Orissa which had usurped many Vijayanagara territories.
  - In a series of battles lasting seven years, Krishna Deva compelled the ruler of Orissa to restore to Vijayanagara all the territories up to the river Krishna.
  - Sri Krishna Deva renewed the old struggle for the control of the Tungabhadra doab. This led to a hostile alliance between his two main opponents, Bijapur and Orissa. Krishna Deva made grand preparations for the conflict and in the battle which followed, the Bijapur ruler was completely defeated (1520).
- **Tuluva Dynasty came to an end with the battle of Rakshasa-Tangadi (also known as Talikota) in 1565 and the subsequent destruction of Vijayanagara by the combined forces of the Muslim states of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda.**
  - After this Tirumala Deva Raya founded the fourth and last dynasty of the empire of Vijayanagara but it was no match to the glory of earlier dynasties and was a truncated version of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- **Sri Krishna Deva Raya ruled Vijayanagara Empire from 1509 to 1529.**
- **Babur was the founder of the Mughal Empire and was born in 1483 and died in 1530 at Agra. Thus, Sri Krishna Deva Raya and Babur were contemporaries.**
- **Hence, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

Q 64.B

- **The personality being described in the passage is Firuz Shah Bahmani or Taj ud-Din Firuz Shah . He reigned from 1397–1422 and was one of the greatest rulers of the Bahmani Sultanate.**
- **He was well-acquainted with the religious sciences, that is, commentaries on the Quran, jurisprudence, etc., and was particularly fond of the natural sciences such as botany, geometry, logic, etc. He was a good calligraphist and a poet and often composed extempore verses.**
- According to Ferishta, Firuz Shah Bahmani was well versed not only in Persian, Arabic and Turkish but also in Telugu, Kannada and Marathi.
- Firuz Shah Bahmani was determined to make the Deccan the cultural centre of India. The decline of the Delhi Sultanat helped him, for many learned people migrated from Delhi to the Deccan. The king also encouraged learned men from Iran and Iraq.
- **The most remarkable step taken by Firuz Shah Bahmani was the induction of Hindus in the administration on a large scale. It is said that from his time the Deccani Brahmans became dominant in the administration**, particularly in the revenue administration. The Deccani Hindus also provided a balance against the influx of foreigners.
- **Firuz Shah Bahmani encouraged the pursuit of astronomy and built an observatory near Daulatabad.**
- **Firuz Shah Bahmani defeated the Vijayanagara ruler Deva Raya I (1404–1422) and married his daughter as part of the cessation of hostilities.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 65.D

- Women in the Vijayanagar Empire occupied a high position in society and took an active part in political, social, religious and cultural affairs.
  - Gangadevi, wife of Kumarakampana authored the famous work Maduravijayam. Hannamma and Thirumalamma were famous poets of this period.
  - According to Nuniz, a large number of women were employed in royal palaces as dancers, domestic servants and palanquin bearers.
- However, women had to face many evil social practices too.
- **The custom of Sati or Self-immolation** is the burning of Hindu widows on the funeral pyre of their husbands. It was widely prevalent in medieval Vijayanagara society. Almost all foreign travellers like Barbosa, Nuniz, who have visited Vijayanagara have written in detail about the ritual of Sati.
- **The concept of Kanyadana** in the marriage was popular in the reign of Deva Raya-I, where a girl Kanya was given away in marriage to a man. This was considered to be a great act of merit.
- Prostitution was yet another social evil that prevailed in the Vijayanagara Empire. Despite being a social evil, prostitution in Vijayanagara Empire was a respectable profession. Prostitutes were held in very high esteem and were classed among those honoured ones as they were the mistresses of the nobles.

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- **The Devadasi system** was widely practiced during the Vijayanagara period. It is a practice in which women were attached to the temples and depended on them for their livelihood. They danced and sang before the gods daily at specified hours. Their service was to please god and hence they were also known as devaradiyals. Such rights were hereditary.
- The temple girls were often children born out of illegal alliances and sometimes they were also daughters of ordinary citizens who were dedicated to the temples as an offering.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 66.A

- **SOME MAJOR STRUCTURAL REMAINS OF THE HARAPPAN TOWNS-**
  - At **Mohenjodaro the 'Great Bath'** is the most important structure. It is surrounded by corridors on all sides and is approached at either end by a flight of steps in north and south. A thin layer of bitumen was applied to the bed of the Bath to ensure that water did not seep in. Scholars believe that the 'Great Bath' was used for **ritual bathing. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - At **Lothal,** a brick structure has been identified as a **dockyard meant for berthing ships and handling cargo**. This suggests that Lothal was an important port and trading center of the Harappan people.
  - Archaeologists have also found evidence of a **ploughed field at Kalibangan** associated with Early Harappan levels. The field had two sets of furrows at right angles to each other, suggesting that two different crops were grown together. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - In **Dholavira**, The remains show an imposing citadel in the centre, with a middle and lower town, each fortified separately, built with pleasingly smoothed structures of sun-dried brick and stone masonry, and with remarkable town planning.
  - Well laid out lanes lead outward systematically from the citadel, with a well-constructed underground drainage system for sanitation.
  - **There is a large stadium with a complex structure and seating arrangement in Dholavira. Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - Two important burial sites in **Harappa** are cemetery **R-37 and Cemetery.**
  - R-37 is a smaller site compared to cemetery H and has about 200 burials. Archaeologists believe it was a restricted cemetery that was used by a particular group or family that lived in Harappa.
  - The R-37 cemetery proves that individuals of high class and status in society were treated very differently and had a separate burial site.

Q 67.D

- In the Natya Shastra, compiled by Bharat Muni dated 200 B.C.-200 A.D., musical instruments have been divided into four main categories on the basis of how sound is produced.
  - The Sushira Vadya or Aerophones- Wind instruments
  - The Avanaddha Vadya or Membranophones- Percussion instruments
  - The Ghana Vadya or Idiophones- Solid instruments which do not require tuning
  - The Tata Vadya or Chordophones- Stringed instruments
    - The tata vadya is a category of instruments in which sound is produced by the vibration of a string or chord.
    - These vibrations are caused by plucking or by bowing on the string which has been pulled taut. The length of the vibrating string or wire, the degree to which it has been tightened, determines the pitch of the note and also to some extent the duration of the sound.
  - The tata vadya are divided into two broad categories-the plucked and the bowed, and further subdivided into the fretted and non-fretted variety.
    - **Bowed string instruments** are a subcategory of string instruments that are played by a bow rubbing the strings. The bow rubbing the string causes vibration which the instrument emits as sound.
    - Bowed instruments are usually used as an accompaniment to vocal music and are referred to as Geetanuga.
    - They are divided into two broad categories:
      - ✓ **Upright**: A fingerboard is held straight up as in the case of **Sarangi**
      - ✓ **Inverted**: The board or resonator is held towards the shoulder and the fingerboard dandi is held across the arm of the player as in the case of the **Ravanhastaveena, the Banam, the Violin.**
    - **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

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Q 68.A

- Gandhara school of art was one of the major schools of art in the history of ancient India. **Although being an intricate part of Indian history, it is uniquely associated with the Greco-Roman style of art.** It mostly flourished in the areas of Afghanistan and present North-Western India. The prominent locations were Taxila, Peshawar, Begram, and Bamiyan.
- The Gandhara school of Art reached its peak under the reign of Kanishka the Great from 127 to 151 AD. This school inherited Greco-Buddhist art.
- The most important trait of the Gandhara sculpture is found in the depiction of Lord Buddha in the standing or seated positions. The seated Buddha is always shown cross-legged in the traditional Indian way. **Another typical feature of Gandhara Art is the rich carving, elaborate ornamentation and complex symbolism. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Grey sandstone (Blue-grey Mica schist to be precise) is used in Gandhara School of Art.** An important feature of Amravati art is the use of white marble like stone to carve out the figures. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 69.A

- **Recent Context: The government has launched the e-Shram portal, a database of unorganised sector workers.** Through this, the government aims to register 38 crore unorganised workers, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, and others.
- The term **'unorganised worker' has been defined under the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008** as "a home-based worker, self-employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganised sector and includes a worker in the organised sector who is not covered by any of the Acts mentioned in Schedule II to this Act."
- **The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number, which, going ahead, will help in including them in social security schemes. Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- **It will be implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.** The registration of workers on the portal will be coordinated by the Labour Ministry, state governments, trade unions and CSCs. A worker can register on the portal using his/her Aadhaar card number and bank account details, apart from filling in other necessary details like date of birth, home town, mobile number and social category. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 70.C

- One of the first requirements of the Delhi Sultanate was houses to live in, and to have places of worship. They at first converted some temples and other existing buildings into mosques while destroying many others, and using their material for building mosques.
- There was great building activity in the Tughlaq period which marked the climax of the Delhi Sultanat as well as the beginning of its decline. Ghiyasuddin and Muhammad Tughlaq built the huge palace-fortress complex called Tughlaqabad.
- **A striking feature of the Tughlaq architecture was the sloping walls. This is called 'batter' and gives the effect of strength and solidity to the building.** However, we do not find any 'batter' in the buildings of Firuz Tughlaq. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A second feature of the Tughlaq architecture was the deliberate attempt to combine the principles of the arch, and the lintel and beam in their buildings. This is found in a marked manner in the buildings of Firuz Tughlaq.
- **The Tughlaqs did not generally use the costly red sandstone in their buildings but the cheaper and more easily available greystone. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Since it was not easy to carve this type of stone, **the Tughlaq buildings have a minimum of decoration.** But the decorative device found in all the buildings of Firuz is the lotus. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 71.C

- **Sri Shyama Shastri, Sri Thyagaraja and Sri Muthu Swami Dikshitar** are together known as the **musical Trinity of Carnatic music.** They composed hundreds of scholarly Kritis in new and rare ragas hither too unused. **All the three were contemporaries** and born in Tiruvarur in Tanjore Dist. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- **Sri Shyama Shastri (1763-1827 AD):** Sri Shyama Shastri was eldest among the Trinity. Almost his kritis are in praise of mother **Goddess Kamakshi of Kanchi.** Kritis are in Telugu as well as in Sanskrit. They are replete with Raga bhava and Sahitya bhava. His three scholarly **Swarajatis** are well known as three gems. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

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- **Sri Tyagaraja (1767-1847 AD):** Sri Tyagaraya is believed to have composed more than 1000 kritis. Nearly 750 compositions have already been published. They include simple as well as scholarly kritis. He brought into usage hundreds of Ragas. He was a devotee of Lord Rama. **Majority of his Kritis are in Telugu, others are in Sanskrit. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Muthuswami Dikshitar (1775-1835 AD):** Dikshitar was the youngest of Trinity. He was a Sri Vidya upasaka and composed a majority of **Kritis on Devi.** He has also composed on innumerable **Shaivite and Vaishnavite deities,** whom he visited during his pilgrimages. His scholarly compositions speak of his deep knowledge of Indian philosophy, Jyotisha, Tantrashastra and Hindu Culture. **All his Kritis are in Sanskrit** and the literary content of his Kritis are of high standard and slightly difficult to understand for a layman.

Q 72.D

- A number of important changes took place in Indian society during the early medieval period. **One of these was the growing power of a class of people who are variously called samanta ranak rautta (rajput), etc. These are hereditary chiefs whose origins were very different.** The hereditary chiefs gradually began to assume many of the functions of the government. They not only assessed and collected land revenue but also acquired more and more administrative power such as exacting fines and awarding punishments.
- The chiefs assumed the right to sublet their lands to their followers without the prior permission of the ruler. This type of society may be called a feudal society. The small states discouraged trade and encouraged self-sufficient village economies. **The domination of chiefs also weakened village self-government.**
- The commentators on Dharmashastras tell us that the rate of the revenue demand from the peasant was one-sixth of the produce as before. However, from some of the grants we learn of a large number of additional cesses, such as grazing tax, tax on ponds, etc. The peasants had to pay these taxes over and above the land revenue. In addition, some of the grants gave the grantees the right to levy fixed or unfixed, proper or improper taxes on the peasants. **The peasants also had to render forced labor (vishti).**
- **Slavery also existed during the period.** Prisoners of war, debtors unable to pay their stakes could be sold into slavery. During famines, many farmers sold themselves for food. In general, emancipation of a slave was considered a good deed, and there were rules prescribed for doing so. **Hence, option (d) is not correct.**

Q 73.A

- **Kuchipudi** is one of the classical styles of Indian dance. **Around the third and fourth decade of this century it emerged out of a long rich tradition of dance-drama of the same name. Kuchipudi village in Andhra Pradesh** lends its name to this dance form. Generated by the Bhakti cult, Kuchipudi has imbibed elements both from Bharatanatyam and folk forms.
- There are now two forms of Kuchipudi; the traditional **musical dance-drama and the solo dance. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- In a Kuchipudi performance, at the beginning, each principal character starts with an introduction itself on the stage with a daru.
    - A daru is a small composition of dance and song specially designed for each character to help him or her reveal his or her identity and also to show the performer's skill in the art.
    - The main Kuchipudi performance could include Rangapuja—the equivalent of an alarippu, with the directions, the stage, the audience and the teachers and elders propitiated;
        - Kautvamu—jatis and lyrics in praise of a deity;
        - Jatiswaram—pure dance set to musical syllables;
        - Shabdamu—a lyrical piece in praise of god or royalty;
        - Kirtanam—an expressional piece, generally composed by saint-poets;
        - Ashtapadi—another expressional piece derived from Jayadeva's Geet Govinda and
        - Shivalila Natyam—stories about the Lord of Dance in his various forms.
        - Padam, Javali, Simhanandini, Shloka and Tillana may also feature.
- To show the dexterity of the dancers in footwork and their control and balance over their bodies, techniques like **dancing on the rim of a brass plate** and with a pitcher full of water on the head was introduced. Acrobatic dancing became part of the repertoire. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The music that accompanies the dance is according to the classical school of **Carnatic music**. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

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- The accompanying musicians, besides the vocalist are: a mridangam player to provide percussion music, a violin or veena player or both for providing instrumental melodic music, and a cymbal player who usually conducts the orchestra and recites the sollukattus (mnemonic rhythm syllables).

Q 74.A

- **The sculptural art of Nalanda, in stucco, stone and bronze, developed out of heavy dependence on the Buddhist Gupta art of Sarnath.** By the ninth century, a synthesis occurred between the Sarnath Gupta idiom, the local Bihar tradition, and that of central India, leading to the formation of the Nalanda school of sculpture characterised by distinctive facial features, body forms and treatment of clothing and jewellery. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The characteristic features of Nalanda art, distinguished by its consistently high quality of workmanship, are that the precisely executed sculptures have an ordered appearance with little effect of crowding.
- **Sculptures are also usually not flat in relief but are depicted in three-dimensional forms.** The back slabs of the sculptures are detailed and the ornamentations delicate. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The Nalanda sculptures initially depict Buddhist deities of the Mahayana pantheon** such as standing Buddhas, bodhisattvas such as Manjusri Kumara, Avalokiteshvara seated on a lotus and Naga-Nagarjuna. During the late eleventh and twelfth centuries, when Nalanda emerged as an important tantric centre, **the repertoire came to be dominated by Vajrayana deities** such as Vajrasharada (a form of Saraswati) Khasarpana, Avalokiteshvara, etc. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 75.C

- **The Mughals** achieved international recognition in the field of painting. Mughal miniatures are an important part of the museums of the world. Ancient Indian painting traditions kept alive in provinces like Malwa and Gujarat along with the central Asian influences created a deep impact in the world of painting. The masters of miniature painting, **Abdu's Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali,** who had come to India from **Central Asia** along with **Humayun** inspired Indian painters. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The primary objective of painting was to illustrate literary works. The Persian text of Mahabharata and Akbar Namah were illustrated with paintings by various painters. **Daswant and Basawan** were famous painters of **Akbar's court. European painting** was introduced in Akbar's court by **Portuguese priests. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- During **Jahangir's time portrait painting** and the painting of animals had developed. Mansur was a great name in this field. The great Dutch painter Rembrandt was influenced by Mughal miniatures. While Shah Jahan continued the tradition of painting, **Aurangzeb's indifference to painting** led to dispersal of the painters to different parts of the country and thereby led to promotion of painting in the provinces. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 76.D

- **Recent Context: The Ministry of Jal Shakti began 'SUJALAM', a '100 days campaign' as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The campaign aims to create more and more ODF Plus villages by undertaking wastewater management at the village level** particularly through the creation of 1 million Soak-pits and also other Greywater management activities. The effort of the campaign would be directed towards achieving the ODF plus status for villages across the country in an accelerated manner in a short time. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Focus area of the campaign includes:-
  - construction of 1 million soak pits.
  - retrofitting of toilets
  - access to toilets for new households
- The campaign will also aid in the sustainable management of water bodies. As disposal of wastewater and clogging of water bodies in the villages or on the outskirts of the villages remain one of the major problems the Campaign would help in the management of the wastewater and turn would help to revive the water bodies.
- The campaign would also boost the momentum for SBMG (Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin) phase II activities through community participation and it will increase awareness about ODF-plus activities and hence ensuring long term maintenance and sustainability of built infrastructure.

Q 77.D

- **Losoong** or Namsoong marks the beginning of the Sikkimese New Year and is celebrated with great joy and fervour all across the region.
  - The festival coincides with the end of the **harvesting season** and provides for the much-needed time of merriment and excitement for all the farmers who have worked hard throughout the year.

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- Losoong festival was once only confined to the Bhutia community; gradually it spread to the Lepchas and now, it is also celebrated across other minor tribes of not only Sikkim but also Darjeeling and Nepal.
- It is one of the most significant festivals for the farmers, providing them an opportunity to rejoice and celebrate their harvest.

- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 78.D

- **The Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka** are in the foothills of the **Vindhyan Mountains** on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau. Bhimbetka is a **UNSECO acknowledged World Heritage Site. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The drawings and paintings can be categorised seven historical periods. Period I, **Upper Palaeolithic**; Period II, **Mesolithic**; and Period III, **Chalcolithic**. After Period III there are four successive periods. As Man transformed over time from a hunter-gatherer to an agriculturist to living as part of an administered state, so did the paintings he made. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The themes of paintings found here are of great variety, ranging from mundane events of daily life in those times to sacred and royal images. These include hunting, dancing, music, **horse and elephant riders**, animal fighting, honey collection, decoration of bodies, and other household scenes.
- The largest number of paintings belong to Period II that covers the Mesolithic paintings. The **hunting scenes** depict people hunting in groups, armed with barbed spears, pointed sticks, arrows and bows. The Mesolithic artists loved to paint animals. Elephant, bison, tiger, boar, deer, antelope, leopard, panther, rhinoceros, fish, frog, lizard, squirrel and at times birds are also depicted. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The artists here made their paintings on the walls and ceilings of the rock shelters. The artists of Bhimbetka used many colours, including various shades of white, yellow, orange, red ochre, purple, brown, green and black. The paints were made by **grinding various rocks and minerals.** They got red from haematite. The green came from a green variety of a stone called chalcedony. White might have been made out of limestone. The rock of mineral was first ground into a powder. This may then have been mixed with water and also with some thick or sticky substance such as **animal fat** or gum or resin from trees. Brushes were made of plant fibre.

Q 79.D

- **Recent Context:** The Reserve Bank of India **(RBI) has introduced a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.** The index does not provide specific ranks to the states. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**
- DPI comprises five broad parameters and it enables the measurement of deepening and expansion of digital payments in the country over different time periods. The parameters include (according and their weight) **Payment Enablers** (25%), **Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors** and (10%), **Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors** (15%), **Payment Performance** (45%) and **Consumer Centricity** (5%).
- Present DPI has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period. **The DPI for March 2019 and March 2020 work out to 153.47 and 207.84 respectively and this indicates appreciable growth. RBI aims to publish DPI on RBI's website on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months.**

Q 80.B

- **Recent context: In the 70th episode of Mann ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dwelt on Indian sports becoming popular in many countries in the west and mentioned USA where an ancient Indian form of sports — Mallakhamb — has been drawing attention due to the efforts of a couple named Chinmay Patankar and Pradnya Patankar.**
- **Mallakhamb: It is a traditional sport/martial art in which a gymnast performs aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling grips in concert with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane, or rope. Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - It is played against gravity and functions on a synergy of mind and body, employing every muscle in a way that enables a person to develop speed, stamina and better health.
  - The name derives from the pole used by wrestlers for practising their skills though, today, Mallakhamb has developed an identity that is separate from wrestling or kushti.
  - The origin of this ancient Indian sport can be traced to the earlier part of the 12th century. A mention of wrestlers exercising on wooden poles is found in the Manasholas, written by Chalukya, in 1153 AD.

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- It was revived late in the 19th century by Balambhatta Dada Deodhar, physical instructor to Bajirao Peshwa II. He took great efforts to popularise this sport.

- **Pari-khanda: It is a martial art from Bihar in which sword and shield are used heavily**. This art was created by the Rajputs. Pari-khanda steps and techniques are also used in Chau dance. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Maach : It is the traditional theatre form of Madhya Pradesh**. The term Maach is used for the stage itself as also for the play. In this theatre form songs are given prominence in between the dialogues. The term for dialogue in this form is bol and rhyme in narration is termed vanag. The tunes of this theatre form are known as rangat. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 81.B

- **Recent Context:** The Prime Minister praised the 'Sukhet model' of Madhubani district in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme. **Sukhet model is named after Sukhet village in Madhubani district where it is being implemented by the scientists of Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agriculture University, Pusa (Samastipur).**
- Under this project, **garbage and dung from houses are collected door-to-door and then converted into organic manure (vermicompost). From the income generated from the sale of organic manure, every family is provided LPG cylinders every two months in exchange for the waste and cow dung.** This project also provides employment to 14 to 15 people at the village level.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 82.B

- Cultural traditions from various regions of the country reflect the rich diversity of Regional Music of India. Each region has its own particular style.
  - **Sohar, Uttar Pradesh:** Social ceremonies have, at times, served as a potent factor for intermingling of different cultures. North India has a strong tradition of singing 'Sohar' songs when a son is born in a family. This has influenced the muslim culture and a form of 'Sohar' song gained currency in the muslim families living in some regions of Uttar Pradesh. **Hence pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - **Sana Lamok, Manipur:** Manipur's hills and valley-both are fond of music and dance. Sana Lamok is sung at the time of coronation ceremony by the Maaiba (priest). It may also be sung to welcome the king. It is sung to evoke the spirit of Pakhangba, the presiding deity. There is a belief that this song is potent with magical powers. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - **Powada, Maharashtra:** Powada is the traditional folk art from Maharashtra. The word Powada itself means "the narration of a story in glorious terms". The narratives are always odes in praise of an individual hero or an incident or place. The chief narrator is known as the Shahir who plays the duff to keep the rhythm. The tempo is fast and controlled by the main singer who is supported by others in chorus. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**

Q 83.A

- The course of the evolution of Indian music saw the emergence of two different sub systems as Hindustani and Carnatic music. In **Haripala's "Sangeeta Sudhakara"**, written in the 14th century A.D., the terms **Carnatic and Hindustani** are found for the first time. The Indian music of the Northern part of India assimilated some features of the music of the **Persian and Arabic musicians** who adorned the courts of the Mughal rulers of Delhi, the music of the South continued to develop along its own original lines. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
- **Cultural interchange** with the advent of **Islamic rule** bring forth new forms of musical synthesis like qawwali and khyal. **Amir Khusrau** is credited with systematizing some aspects of Hindustani music, and also introducing several ragas such as Yaman Kalyan, Zeelaf and Sarpada.
- The major vocal forms or styles associated with **Hindustani classical music are dhrupad, khyal, and tarana.** Light classical forms include dhamar, trivat, chaiti, kajari, tappa, tap-khyal, ashtapadis, thumri, dadra, ghazal and bhajan; these do not adhere to the rigorous rules of classical music. **Gitam, Suladi, Jatisvaram, Varnam, Kirtanam** are different musical forms of **Carnatic classical music. Hence option 3 is not correct.**
- After the 16th century, the singing styles of **Hindustani classical music diversified into different gharanas** patronized in different princely courts. The oldest of these is the Gwalior gharana. others include Agra Gharana, Jaipur Atroli Gharana etc. **Hence option 1 is correct.**

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Q 84.A

- It happened in 1993 when an **inscription in Bactrian and Greek was found in a place called Rabatak between Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif** when the Mujahideen were digging a trench along with many cultural treasures. It gave a complete account of **the genealogy of the early Kushan Empire and some details till the reign of Kanishka. It is thus known as the Rabatak inscription. Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- The **Besanagar inscription is a relic belonging to the Shunga Empire age in India.** It was completed during the reign of the Sunga ruler Bhaga Sunga (alias Bhagabhadra) during the second century BCE. This relic is now housed at the Madhya Pradesh Government Art Museum at Vidisha. It is popularly believed that Bhagabhadra had erected this pillar to commemorate the conversion of Heliodorus (votive erector) to Vaishnavism. Heliodorus was a luminary at the court of Antialcidas, the Indo-Bactrian king. The Besanagar Pillar is a storehouse of information on the Sungas as well as the Indo-Bactrian Greeks. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched**
- The **Naneghat inscriptions in the Naneghat caves indicate that they are the work of Satavahana rulers** who came into prominence after the fall of the Mauryan empire. It is believed that a powerful woman ruler Naganika, the wife of Satakarni (180–170 BCE) of the Satavahana family commissioned the cave, the statues, and the inscriptions. Inscriptions in the cave mention her and her family members. The central figure of the inscription is Naganika, perhaps the first woman in India's recorded history who has determined the political affairs of a state, even having her own coinage. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched**
- The **Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman, also known as the Girnar Rock inscription of Rudradaman, is a Sanskrit prose inscribed on a rock by the Western Kshatrap** ruler **Rudradaman I (Saka dynasty)**. It. It is located near Girnar hill near Junagadh, Gujarat, India. The inscription is dated shortly after 150 CE. The Junagadh rock contains inscriptions of Ashoka, Rudradaman I, and Skandagupta. **Hence pair 4 is correctly matched.**

Q 85.D

- **Chunar** is a city and source of **red sandstone** located in Mirzapur District of Uttar Pradesh **located in Ganga Valley.**
- Chunar stone is a kind of reddish or buff-colored, finely grained, hard sandstone which has been widely used in the architecture of India since ancient times.
- Hillsides of Chunar had been **quarried for sandstone from the 3rd century BCE to the medieval period**. Studies of ancient sculptures including Ashokan pillars provide fine details regarding stone quarrying at Chunar.
  - The low-lying hill near Baragaon village was the main quarrying area in ancient times.
  - The quarried blocks of stone were chiselled and dressed into cylindrical shape at Chunar itself in order to roll them down the gently sloping hillside or down the small streams to the Ganga river and further on to sites where there was a demand for the sandstone.
  - The ultimate destination of the Chunar stone included sites such as Sarnath.
  - Stone-carving workshops were situated on the navigational route connecting Chunar and Sarnath.
- **Chunar was preferred as a quarry site** to other areas such as the Pabosa hills near Allahabad or Dehri-on-Son in Bihar because of the **good quality of its stone and its convenient geographical location near the river**, which made transportation easier.
- The **Ashokan pillars** are quite similar to each other in form and dimensions. They are **entirely made of sandstone quarried at Chunar.**
- Although stone quarrying still goes on in the Chunar hills, modern stone cutters do not extract stone from the old quarries. Their reason is that due to prolonged exposure to the elements, stone from such quarries is not considered suitable for working.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 86.A

- **The name 'Veda' is given to the vast body of literature made up of Mantra and Brahmana**. 'Brahmana' means the explanation of a ritual by a learned priest.
- Later this word came to mean a collection of such explanations by the priest on the science of sacrifice. The Brahmanas are thus the ritual textbooks on the details of sacrifice or Yajna.
- These texts deal with the following six topics: Vidhi Arthavada, Ninda, Prashansha, Purakalpa and Parakriti.
- **Vidhi** means injunctions for the performance of particular rites.
- **Arthavada** comprises numerous explanatory remarks on the meaning of Mantras and particular rites.

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- **Ninda** or censure consists in criticism and, refutation of the opponents' views.
- **Prashansha** means eulogy, recommendation.
- **Purakalpa** refers to the performance of sacrificial rites in former times.
- **Parakriti** means the achievements of others.
- The main subject of the Brahmanas is an injunction (Vidhi), all other topics being subservient to it.
- **According to Aitareya Brahmana**, in relation to the Prince, the **Brahmana is described as a seeker of livelihood and an acceptor of gifts** but removable at will.
- Aitareya Brahmana belongs to **Shakala Shakha of the Rigveda. Hence option (a) is correct.** This work is ascribed to Mahidasa Aitareya and dates variously from 1000 BCE to 500 BCE.
- **The Satapatha Brahmana** speaks at length about the ploughing rituals**. It is a part of Shukla-Yajurveda.**
- **Arsheya Brahmana and Daivata/ Devatadhyaya Brahmana are parts of Samaveda.**
- **Gopatha Brahmana is a part of Atharveda.**

Q 87.B

- The **institution of the Iqta** had been in force in the **early Islamic world** as a form of reward for services to the state. In the **caliphate administration, it was used to pay civil and military officers. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- After the establishment of the Sultanate, iqta system was introduced by the Sultans. To begin with, the army commanders and nobles were given territories to administer and collect the revenue. The territories thus assigned were called iqta and their holders as iqtadar or muqti.
- From the 14th century **Walis or muqtis** who wer commanders of military and administrative tracts called Iqta. Their exact powers varied according to circumstances.
- In due course, the **muqti was given complete charge of the administration of the iqta** which included the task of maintaining an army. The muqti was to help the sultan with his army in case of need. He was expected to **maintain the army and meet his own expenses with the revenue collected. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- From the **time of Balban** the muqti was expected to send the balance (fawazil) of the income to the center after meeting his and the army's expenses. This means that the central revenue department had made an assessment of the expected income of the Iqta, the cost of the maintenance of the army, and the muqti's own expenses.
- This process became even more strict during the time of **Alauddin Khalji.**
- As the central control grew, the control over muqti's administration also increased. **The Khwaja (probably same as Sahib-i-Diwan) was appointed to keep a record of the income of the Iqtas**. It was on the basis of this record that the Sultan used to make his revenue demands.
- A **barid or intelligence officer** was also appointed to keep the Sultan informed.
- During the reign of **Muhmmad-bin-Thughlaq** a number of governors were appointed on revenue sharing terms where they were to give a fixed sum to the state. During the time of **Feroze Shah Tughlaq** the control of the state over iqtas was diluted when iqtas became hereditary. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Q 88.C

- The shadow theatre of Karnataka is known as **Togalu Gombeyatta**.
- These puppets are mostly small in size. The puppets however **differ in size according to their social status**, for instance, large size for kings and religious characters and smaller size for common people or servants.
- Togalu signifies "leather" and gombeyata "figure, doll, dance and performance". There are two distinct types of togalu gombeyata based on the size of the figures. **Chikka theatre** uses smaller figures (between 20 to 30 centimetres high) and **dodda theatre** uses larger-sized figures (between 30 to 120 centimetres in height).
- The puppeteers are from the **Killikyeta tribal group** that came from Maharashtra at least two centuries ago and settled in different regions of Southern India, particularly in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- During the togalu gombeyata performances, puppeteers speak in **Kannada**, one of the languages of Karnataka, but include certain songs or exclamations in **Aare Marathi**.
- They have the status of travelling entertainer-educators and their repertoire is based on fragments from the Mahabharata, the Ramayana and the Puranas, and also from folk tales. The episodes of the Ramayana are the principal source of inspiration in the Kannada language.
- Togalu gombeyata performances take place in a reserved space outside the village and also in the courtyard of certain temples. The coloured and transparent shadow figures are seen from behind a rectangular white cotton fabric screen stretched between two poles.

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Q 89.A

- The Ahmadnagar sultanate situated was in the northwestern Deccan, between the sultanates of Gujarat and Bijapur.
  - **Malik Ahmed Shah, after defeating the Bahmani army led by general Jahangir Khan on May 28, 1490, declared independence and established the Nizam Shahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar or Ahmadnagar sultanate. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - **In 1636 Aurangzeb, then Mughal viceroy of Deccan annexed the sultanate to the Mughal empire.**
- **The Bijapur Sultanate** was located in southwestern India, straddling the Western Ghats range of southern Maharashtra and northern Karnataka.
  - **Yusuf Adil Shah was the founder of this sultanate and established the Adil Shahis dynasty. Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - The dynasty's greatest period was during the reign of Ibrāhīm ʿĀdil Shah II (1579–1626), who extended his frontier as far south as Mysore and was a skillful administrator and a generous patron of the arts. He reverted to the Sunni form of Islam but remained tolerant of other religions, including Christianity.
  - The country's largest and the world's second-largest dome, Gol Gumbaz is a work of architectural genius. Unsupported by any pillars, this mausoleum of Muhammed Adil Shah was constructed in 1656 by architect Yaqut of Dabul.
  - Aurangazeb annexed Bijapur in 1686.
- **Golconda was ruled by the Quṭb Shāhī dynasty from 1518–1687. Its founder was Qulī Quṭb Shah (or Sultan Quli Qutb Mulk), a Turkish governor of the Bahmanī Kingdom's eastern region. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
  - The monument Charminar in Hyderabad was built in 1591 by **Muḥammad Qulī Quṭb Shah.**
  - In 1687 the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb annexed the kingdom.
- ***Time Period*** ***Monarch***
  - **1512–1543** **Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk (the founder)**
  - 1543–1550 Jamsheed Quli Qutb Shah
  - 1550–1550 Subhan Quli Qutb Shah
  - **1550–1580** **Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah**
  - 1580-1612 Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah
  - 1612-1626 Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah
  - 1626–1672 Abdullah Qutb Shah
  - 1672-1686 Abul Hasan Qutb Shah

Q 90.B

- **Kanishka** was the greatest king of the Kushan dynasty that ruled over the northern part of the Indian subcontinent, Afghanistan, and possibly areas of Central Asia north of the Kashmir region. He is, however, chiefly remembered as a great patron of Buddhism. As a patron of Buddhism, Kaniska is chiefly noted for having convened the fourth great Buddhist council in Kashmir, which marked the beginnings of Mahayana Buddhism. **He is attributed to starting a new era in 78 AD** which is known as the Shaka era and is used by the Government of India. **Hence statement 1 is correct**
- The Kushans introduced the **Satrap** system of government. **The empire was divided into numerous satrapies, and each satrapy was placed under the rule of a satrap.** Some curious practices such as the hereditary dual role, two kingdoms ruling in the same kingdom at one and the same time were introduced. **Thus it appears that there was a less degree of Centralisation during the Kushana rulers. Hence statement 2 is correct**
- The Kushanas occupy a special place in ancient Indian history because of their contribution to various aspects of life. Even in literature and medicine, India made progress. Charaka, known as the father of Ayurveda, wrote a book on a medicine called Charaksamhita whereas **Asvaghosha, a Buddhist scholar, wrote Buddhacharita, a full-length biography of the Buddha. Both these scholars were believed to be the contemporaries of King Kanishka.** The Kushanas patronized the Gandhara and the Mathura schools of sculptural art which is known for producing the earliest images of Buddha and Buddhisattavas. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

Q 91.A

- **Recent Context:** The Drug Controller General has granted emergency approval to the Zycov-D. **It is the first indigenously developed COVID vaccine**, developed by the Ahmedabad based Zydus Cadilla group. The vaccine has been developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under the 'Mission COVID Suraksha'.

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- The three-dose vaccine once administered produces the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and elicits an immune response. The plug-and-play technology on which the plasmid DNA platform is based can be easily adapted to deal with mutations in the virus, such as those already occurring. **This DNA-based vaccine in can be administered without a needle, purportedly minimising chances of reactions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **It is also the first vaccine in India that can be administered to adults as well as those 12 and above. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 92.A

- **Recent Context: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the Working Group I report, "Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis",** which was also approved by 195 member governments of the IPCC.
- **The Working Group I report is the first instalment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022.**
- According to the report every region in the world is witnessing irreversible changes in climate, it concluded that a hotter future is certain but that there is still a chance to prevent the direst outcomes. **The report provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.**
- Strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. While benefits for air quality would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 93.C

- **Recent Context:** The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to launch a new Mission on Oil palm to be known as the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
  - Under this scheme, it is proposed to cover an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectare (ha.) for oil palm till the year 2025-26 and thereby reaching the target of 10 lakh hectares ultimately. The production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is expected to go upto 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and upto 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.
- **Presently India is the largest importer of edible oils in the world. We have been importing between 60 to 70% of our edible oil requirements for the last decade.** India currently spends around Rs.75,000 crore annually on importing edible oils, which should ideally go to the hands of Indian farmers, if only we can overcome our dependence on imports. Moreover, fluctuations in prices of oilseeds in the international commodities market get reflected in the domestic market and affect domestic inflation and farmer incomes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **While palm oil is a third of all edible oils consumed in India and over 50% of edible oil that is imported, it is mainly 2.7% of edible oil produced in India.** Our farmers still produce anti genius and traditional oilseeds – mustard and groundnut – along with Soyabean. **The NNEO – OP envisages the rising production of crude palm oil to 11.2 lakh tonnes by 2025–26 and 28 lakh tonnes by 2029–30. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 94.C

- **The Sun temple at Modhera dates back to the early eleventh century and was built by Raja Bhimdev I of the Solanki Dynasty in 1026. There is a massive rectangular stepped tank called the Surya Kund in front of it.** The proximity of sacred architecture to a water body such as a tank, a river or a pond has been noticed right from the earliest times. By the early eleventh century, they had become a part of many temples.
- This hundred-square-metre rectangular pond is perhaps the grandest temple tank in India. **A hundred and eight miniature shrines are carved in between the steps inside the tank.** A huge ornamental arch-Torana leads one to the sabha mandapa (the assembly hall) which is open on all sides.
- The influence of the woodcarving tradition of Gujarat is evident in the lavish carving and sculpture work. However, the walls of the central small shrine are devoid of carving and are left plain as the temple faces the east and, **every year, at the time of the equinoxes, the sun shines directly into this central shrine.**
- **Arasavalli sun temple:** The Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple, dedicated to the sun god, located in Arasavalli, is one of the two temples of its kind, the other being the most popular and magnificent Konark

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Sun Temple in Odisha. However, the temple in Arasavalli is an older structure that was built by the same Eastern Ganga Dynasty that Commissioned the temple in Konark as well.

- **Bhramanya Dev temple:** The Brahmanya Dev (Baramju) temple dedicated to the Sun is located at Unao near Jhansi in Madhya Pradesh. The stone image of the Sun God stands here on a brick platform covered with black plates. Twenty-one triangles representing the 21 phases of the sun are engraved in the shrine. There is a protective brass cover for the image. Sunday is the special day of worship. This temple was patronized by the Peshwas and by the ruler of Datia, a nearby town.
- **Konark sun temple:** The Konark or Konarak Sun temple is dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya, and, conceived as a giant stone chariot with 12 wheels, it is the most famous of the few sun temples built in India. It is located about 35 km northeast of the city of Puri on the coastline in the state of Odisha (earlier Orissa). It was built c. 1250 CE by King Narasimhadeva I (r. 1238-1264 CE) of the Eastern Ganga dynasty (8th century CE - 15th century CE). The temple in its present state was declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site in 1984 CE.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 95.B

- **The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. It comes under the Ministry of Culture. **It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General**. Besides it regulate all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. It also regulates Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972, and maintains ancient monuments and archaeological sites.
- **The National Archives of India** is the custodian of the records of the enduring value of the Government of India. **It was Established as the Imperial record department on 11 March 1891 at Calcutta (Kolkata).** It is the biggest archival repository in South Asia. It has a vast corpus of records viz., public records, private papers, oriental records, cartographic records, and microfilms, which constitute an invaluable source of information for scholars-administrators and users of archives.
- **The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.** Its objectives are to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs pertaining to India's external cultural relations; to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people, and to develop relations with nations.
- The Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is an organization dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India. Founded on 12 March 1954, it is supported by, though independent of, the Indian government. Its office is located in Rabindra Bhavan near Mandi House in Delhi.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer**

Q 96.D

- **Bonalu** is a traditional Hindu festival centered on the **Goddess Mahakali.** This festival is celebrated annually in the parts of the **Telangana state.** It is celebrated in the month of Ashada Masam, which is around July and/or August. Special "poojas" (worship/ ceremonies) are performed for **Yellamma** (one of the many regional forms of Mahakali) on the first and last day of the festival. The festival is also considered a thanksgiving to the Goddess for fulfillment of vows. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Ashadhi Bij** is observed on the second day of the Shukla Paksha or waxing phase of moon in Ashada month. It is the **Kutchi New Year.** This **Hindu New Year** is observed in the **Kutch region in Gujarat.** Ganesha, Goddess Lakshmi and other regional deities are worshipped on the occasion. **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Dree festival** is a popular festival in the **Ziro valley of Arunachal Pradesh** and it is an important agricultural festival of Apatani tribe. Dree is celebrated in order to bring a **bountiful harvest season**, hence, Apatani tribe offers prayers to four Gods they follow - Tamu, Harniang, Metii, and Danyi. This three day long agricultural festival is joyously celebrated with traditional cloths worn by women and children. **Hence pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 97.B

Reasons for the decline of the Mauryan Empire:

- **Brahmanical Reaction:** The anti-sacrifice attitude of Buddhism and Ashoka brought much loss to the Brahmanas, who lived on the gifts made to them in various kinds of sacrifices. In spite of the tolerant policy of Ashoka, the Brahmanas developed some kind of antipathy towards him. They wanted a policy that would favour them and uphold existing interests and privileges.

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- **Financial Crisis**: **The enormous expenditure on the maintenance of the huge army and payment to bureaucrats,** the largest regiment of officers, created a financial crisis for the Mauryan empire. Despite the taxes imposed on the people, it became difficult for the Mauryas to sustain this huge superstructure.
- **Neglect of the north-west frontier and absence of the boundary structure such as the Great Wall of China**: The Chinese ruler Shih Huang Ti (247-210 BCE) constructed the Great Wall of China in about 220 BCE, to protect his empire against the attacks of the Scythians, a central Asian nomadic tribe who were in a state of constant flux. No such measures were taken by the emperor Ashoka on the northwestern frontier of India. In order to escape the Scythians, the Parthians, the Shakas and the Greeks were forced to move towards India.
- **Spread of the new material knowledge in the outlying areas**: Once the new knowledge of iron tools and weapons spread in the peripheral areas, Magadha lost its special advantage. On the basis of material culture acquired from Magadha, new kingdoms such as the Shungas and Kanvas in central India, the Chetis in Kalinga and the Satavahans in the Deccan were founded and developed.
- **Highly centralised administration: centralized** administration under the Mauryas became a problem with the later Mauryan kings who were not as efficient administrators as their predecessors. Powerful kings like Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka could control the administration well. But weak rulers led to a weakening of the administration and ultimately led to the empire's disintegration. **Hence options 2, 3, and 4 are correct.**
- From the days of Alexander's invasion, the northwest frontier of India remained exposed to the Greeks. **Alexander could not invade the Magadh** region due to various reasons, war-weary and diseased soldiers being one of the reasons Chandragupta Maurya drove out the Greeks from the Indian soil, and by defeating Seleukos Nikator established his authority outside the Indian frontiers. **During the rule of Bindusara and Ashoka, there was no fear from the Greek powers as they were fearful of the Maurya army. Hence option 5 is not correct**
- The **Mahajanapadas were a set of sixteen kingdoms that existed in ancient India.** It all began when the tribes (janas) of the late Vedic period decided to form their own territorial communities, which eventually gave rise to new and permanent areas of settlements called 'states' or 'janapadas. **It happened in the Pre-Mauryan times as Mauryas are hailed for the political unification of the states. Hence option 1 is not correct.**

Q 98.C

- The tradition of rock-cut dwellings in India is supposed to have been developed during the Maurayan period in Barabar hills. These rock-cut version of the architecture were predominantly wooden prototypes which were copied into stone.
- There are seven **rock-cut chambers, four on Barabar hills and three on Nagarjuni hills in Bihar (Gaya).** Archaeologically, these chambers are important as they are the earliest example of rock-cut technique copied from wood and thatch architecture.
- **On the Barabar hills, Sudama and Lomas Rishi caves are most significant example.**
  - The doorways of both these chambers have been carved in the fashion of wooden arch.
  - As far the ground plan concerned, they are not different from one another. Both of these consist two parts-hall with barrel vaulted roof and separate circular cell with domical roof interior doorway in the centre at the end of hall.
  - The exterior wall of Sudama cave has perpendicular grooves and it has an enamel like polish which is evidently a feature of Mauryan artistic excellent.
  - The facade of Lomas Rishi cave appears to be the exact copy of wooden doorways.
- **A typical example of early cave architecture is the most datable cave of all, the so-called Lomas Rishi cave in the Barabar Hills of Bihar.**
  - An inscription proves that this was excavated for the Ajivika sect in the time of Ashoka himself.
  - The cave carved out of the living rock, measures 55'x22'x20'.
  - The entrance is a representation in stone of a hut entrance, with the end of the roof constructed of bent timber supported by cross beams, the ends of which are shown protruding.
  - A carved frieze of elephants is a stone imitation of similar work in wood along with a stone imitation of trellis work made of small stick of bamboo. This is an excellent example showing the development from earlier shapes in timber translated into stone.
- **The first known use of the 'Chaitya arch' in stone at Lomash Rishi was replicated in caves across India, including Ajanta, and Kanheri. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Carved out of a very hard monolithic granite stone, each of these caves features two chambers each, with a highly polished surface. There are no sculptures or embellishments present in any of these caves. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

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Q 99.B

- Once the site is declared as a world Heritage site by UNESCO it is accepted as primer facie evidence that such a site is culturally sensitive and warrants legal protection pursuant to the law of war under the **Geneva convention**, its articles, protocols and customs, together with other treaties including the hair convention for protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and international law.
- **Airavateshvara Temple is situated in Tamil Nadu** it is a part of great Chola temples.
- **Victorian Gothic and Art Deco ensembles in Mumbai** are selected in UNESCO's list of world heritage site in India in 2018
- **Jantar Mantar In Jaipur in Rajasthan was elected in 2010** (not the one situated in Delhi)
- **Group of monuments at Pattadakal in Karnataka** (nine Hindu temples and one giant temple which includes Virupaksha Temple, Bharat Nath temple etc) has been selected as UNESCO world Heritage site in 1987
- **Hence pairs 1 and 4 are correctly matched and option (b) is the correct answer**

Q 100.C

- **Vakataka Empire succeeded the Satvahanas in the Deccan between the 3rd and 5th centuries CE**. They were contemporary to the Guptas ruling in Northern India at the time.
- **Vindhyashakti, a Brahmin chieftain, founded the Vakataka empire. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Their kingdom extended from the southern edges of Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra River in the south as well as from the Arabian Sea in the west to the edges of Chhattisgarh in the east.
- Vakataka rulers forged many **matrimonial alliances** with other dynasties of their times. **The daughter of Gupta emperor Chandragupta II, Prabhavatigupta was married to Vakataka king, Rudrasena II. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The Vakatakas were patrons of arts, architecture, and literature. They followed the **Shaivite faith**
- **The rock-cut Buddhist Viharas and Chaityas of Ajanta Caves were built under the patronage of Vakataka King, Harishena. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

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